

Tomorrow

Town hall v Whitehall
A profile of David Blunkett, the blind Sheffield city councillor leading the fight against rate-capping

Inside story
Alan Franks on the proliferation in Argentina of British books on the Falklands

Love-hate thrills
Geoffrey Wansell meets Robert Ludlum, thriller writer scorned by the critics, loved by readers

Hard core
Sieve Cram, the world's best middle-distance runner, pounds the pavements in Newcastle City Centre's 5,000 metres

Woolworth set to axe 34 stores

The Woolworth store chain, whose tough new management has already improved financial performance, is negotiating to sell 34 shops which are not meeting its targets. The cutback threatens more than 1,000 jobs, the shopworkers' union said.

Britain talks to Unita

The Foreign Office had its first official contact with the London representative of the Angolan guerrilla organization, Unita, in an effort to secure the release of 16 British hostages.

Junta charged

The three members of the military junta which seized power in Argentina in 1976 have been indicted for rebellion by a federal appeals court.

MPs' case on Oman to be released
By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent
A legally privileged and fully argued case against the Prime Minister, suggesting that she did have a personal interest to declare in the Oman university contract, is to be published by a select committee of the House of Commons.

Olympic deal
A British company's subsidiary has won a multi-million pound contract to sell food and drinks at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles this summer.

Francis treble
Trevor Francis, who tonight plays his forty-second match for England, says he has three objectives when he faces Northern Ireland at Wembley Page 22

Times increase
Advertisers have sharply increased their support for *The Times* in the past two years, according to figures from Media Expenditure Analysis Limited. The column volume of advertising in *The Times* rose by 36.4 per cent between 1981 and 1983, more than any other quality daily newspaper. *The Guardian* advertising rose 15.4 per cent over the period, the *Daily Telegraph* showed almost no change and the *Financial Times* dropped by 12.6 per cent.

Leader page, 13
Letters: On Arts Council grants, from Lord Cudlipp, and others; Telecom profits, from Sir Ian Morrow; Soviet curb, from Lord Cogan and others. Leading articles: Welfare review; Agricultural prices; Argentine debt. Features, pages 10-12. How open a debate on the social services? Bernard Levin on the flop of the year: the Galleries in Mrs Thatcher's shooting gallery. Spectrum: insecurity in Silicon Valley. Wednesday Page: away from the flying pan.

Obituary, page 14
Naomi Uemura, Mr B. S. Smith, Mr Kenneth Whitty

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Government plans major review of family practitioners

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is seeking long-term changes in family practitioner services - those provided by family doctors, dentists and pharmacists.

As a first step, a wide-ranging debate will be launched by the publication, probably in July, of a Green Paper listing options and proposals for change in the services, which now cost more than £3,000m a year.

The paper is likely to be accompanied by a report on medical manpower which has examined the needs of the National Health Service and the private sector for doctors, up to the year 2000.

Once the Green Paper is published, ministers plan a consultation period with organizations such as the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing, to try to produce a consensus about the future direction of primary health care.

The move means that key government decisions will have to wait until the green paper and the debate. These include whether to make GPs retire at 65 or 70, whether to control the numbers of overseas doctors and whether to cut the number of medical students.

The decision to review the future of primary health care has been prompted by a number of factors, including the accelerating move of long-stay elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped patients out of hospital and into community care, without any proper assessment of what extra demands that will place on primary health care services.

In addition, the Government is looking for tighter controls on the numbers of GPs and their spending, and a Bill now going through Parliament will turn Family Practitioner Committees into health authorities in their own right with the potential to employ staff and undertake strategic planning for primary health care.

That would open up the possibility, for example of the new FPCs, rather than existing health authorities, employing the district nursing staff and health visitors who provide community care.

Other issues which will be tackled include ways of improving primary health care in inner cities, where many GPs are elderly and services are poor, and how far more resources

should be devoted to disease prevention and screening.

A key issue to be decided is how many extra GPs should be planned for, and how far patient list sizes should be allowed to fall.

At present the number of family doctors is growing at about 2 per cent a year and list sizes have fallen from 2,400 a decade ago to 2,100. The BMA is pressing for list sizes to fall to 1,700, which would require another 6,000 family doctors.

Once the future number of GPs is resolved, the government should be able to make sensible decisions about whether to cut medical student numbers and introduce tighter controls on the numbers of overseas doctors - decisions which affect the hospital side of the NHS as well as general practice. On present trends some estimates suggest there could be between 20,000 and 50,000 too many doctors by the end of the century.

Publication of the Bider-Hamlyn report, which has recommended ways of improving the forecasting and control of family doctor spending, is likely to accompany the green paper.

Fowler's new system

National insurance scrutiny

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

There is to be a fundamental re-examination to decide whether Britain still needs a separate national insurance system distinct from income tax.

This will follow from Mr Norman Fowler's reviews of different areas of social security: some social security benefits are financed through the national insurance system by contributions paid on top of the basic rate of income tax.

Discussions on fusing income tax and national insurance will be held with the Treasury by the central unit within the Department of Health and Social Security formed by the Secretary of State for Social Services to coordinate inquiries into supplementary benefit, pensions, housing benefits, provision for the disabled and benefits for the young.

National insurance contributions finance certain benefits, such as pensions and

unemployment benefit, paid regardless of needs to people satisfying basic contribution requirements.

Others, such as child benefit, paid tax-free to mothers, and supplementary benefit, which is means-tested, come from general taxation. Some benefits for the disabled are based on national insurance, while others are not.

Apart from the new earnings-related pension scheme, no national insurance benefits are closely related to the level of individual contributions.

A fusion of the two systems might be in line with the Government's wish to simplify the system and concentrate benefits on the most needy.

However, any proposal will have to wait for the results of the pensions inquiry, as the new state scheme, introduced with both main parties' support in 1978, is intended to provide an earnings-related pension in-

directly based on earnings-related national insurance.

This makes Mr Fowler's deadline look tight. After receiving the working parties' reports by the end of this year, he plans major proposals on such structural questions as the links between tax and benefits by early 1985.

Some consideration of a move towards fusion would be in line with the Chancellor's efforts to simplify income tax and "deconstruct" the "poverty trap".

As national insurance contributions have risen to 9 per cent of earnings for employees and 10.45 per cent for employers, they have become an increasing burden on the low-paid. This is because they are paid on all wages for anyone with total earnings above £34 a week, while income tax is levied only above certain thresholds.

National insurance also has a ceiling of £250 a week.

MP's case on Oman to be released

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

A legally privileged and fully argued case against the Prime Minister, suggesting that she did have a personal interest to declare in the Oman university contract, is to be published by a select committee of the House of Commons.

The outstanding complaint against Mrs Thatcher, lodged with the Select Committee on Members' Interests by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Wokingham, was rejected last night by the Conservative-dominated committee.

However, after a "gruelling" and "bustling" two hour session, the committee agreed that it would publish a minority report submitted by the MP.

Members' Interests and committee colleagues were told that if they said anything about the committee's proceedings or its conclusion, they would be committing a disciplinary offence under the House of Commons.

He said last night: "I have been warned, but I can say that I produced a minority report."

Mr Campbell-Savours refused to make any further comment, but other MPs revealed that the minority report contained his arguments for complaining that Mrs Thatcher should have declared an interest in the Oman contract.

It was also stated last night that Mr Campbell-Savours had injected into his report the details of another complaint, from Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, which had already been rejected by the committee.

Mr Sedgmore's contentious evidence was refused publication by the committee, but he issued it last week with a defiant statement that the Prime Minister could not and would not sue. Any House of Commons report from a select committee is covered by parliamentary privilege, and would be protected from an action in defamation.

Certainly, some of the statements contained in the minority report could be regarded as defamatory by some of the parties named in it.

Engineers' union in no-strike deals

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Britain's second biggest union, is signing "no-strike" deals to maintain and increase its membership of one million.

These sensitive agreements, which include binding arbitration, are particularly frequent in the North-East of England. Mr George Arnold, a member of the union's executive, said yesterday.

The union has previously remained silent about the arrangements, known disparagingly by the left as "sweetheart agreements" bitterly opposed by traditional trade unionists.

The union's leaders have allowed the "non-aggression" pacts to multiply because membership in the industrial heartlands, where orthodox agreements exist, has plummeted.

Right-wingers dominating the executive have decided the best way to revive the union's fortunes is to cultivate its moderate image and gain a foothold in the new "sunrise" industries. They argue that this strategy does not sacrifice the union right to withdraw labour because it is impossible to stop

workers walking out if they want to.

Mr Arnold said there were "quite a number" of such deals. He could not say how many because local negotiators were allowed a degree of autonomy.

He made his comments yesterday in an interview with *The Times* over the kind of industrial relations procedures to be offered to Nissan to ensure that its planned pilot plant at Washington New Town employing up to 500 will be expanded to create more than 2,700 jobs.

Mr Arnold said he would meet management within a week and a procedure, including binding arbitration, "could be one of the things we could usefully discuss".

Local officials of his union and the Transport and General Workers' Union have virtually agreed a no-strike deal already.

The no-strike move will have repercussions elsewhere and will accelerate a process started by the right-wing Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union at the Plymouth plant of the Japanese electronics company, Toshiba.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent arriving in Northern Ireland yesterday on their first visit in four years.

Railways avoid all-out clash

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

An unholy alliance has been forged between British Rail and the two main rail unions to prevent an all-out confrontation over the unions' decision to support the striking miners by refusing to transport coal.

About six railway workers were sent home yesterday without pay by local managers for refusing to take out coal trains. This was half the number suspended on Monday. Passengers services in the Wirral, Merseyside, were halted after a walkout by about 250 staff over the suspension of a driver, but that was an isolated incident.

Both sides are reluctant to escalate the action. Most coal trains were running in areas still producing coal.

Militant members of the National Union of Railwaymen were threatening at one stage to disrupt passenger services on the main London to Glasgow line in the Warrington area over the suspension of two guards, but the dispute was defused by NUR national officers.

The suspensions were at depots in Salford, Bescot, Toton, and Nottingham in the Midlands and at Brynkenhead.

In other areas, mainly the Nottinghamshire coalfield, train drivers refused to cross official National Union of Mineworkers picket lines, but were not sent home.

BR has been telling regional managers to send home only those staff who refuse to take out trains which might carry coal. If a driver and guard refuse to cross a picket line at a colliery they return the locomotive to the depot.

The NUM was not maintaining round-the-clock picketing of railway lines and coal was apparently being moved at night. The amount being moved has been cut to between 40 and 50 per cent of normal. BR gets about half of its freight income from carrying coal and the long-term loss of money could be serious.

Suggestions that the cautious approach is the result of government pressure are discounted by BR executives.

Notts pits may yield to pickets

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders in Nottinghamshire voted yesterday to escalate the coal strike by calling on 34,000 pitmen in their traditionally moderate coalfield not to cross picket lines set up by flying pickets from Yorkshire.

This unexpected hard-line approach was agreed after a heated three-hour meeting of the 15-man area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, but it is still conditional on approval by a coalfield delegate conference tomorrow.

Nottinghamshire is the only coalfield to have worked normally during the "rolling

Power pickets
Scargill tells Russia

strike", now in its fourth week. But Mr Henry Richardson, area NUM secretary, said last night: "We have now changed our policy. We have got to look at our consciences because other trade unionists are putting their jobs on the line to help us."

The National Coal Board is guardedly confident that the move not to cross picket lines will be rejected by the 250-strong area conference. A three to one ballot vote against sympathy strike action has kept the 25 Nottinghamshire pits producing coal with the help of a massive police presence.

However, the development alarmed National Coal Board managers who were counting on a steady resumption of normal working in the moderate coalfields to put pressure on the NUM national executive to call a national ballot at its April 13 meeting.

The board reported last night that 43 pits were working normally - an increase of three on the previous day - and two more were producing some coal. A further eight had some men crossing picket lines but unable to resume output. But 123 remained strikebound.

On Monday 35,440 men went into work, a 12 per cent increase on the 31,625 a week before. About 140,000 are on strike.

Continued on back page, col 1

Russians pour in supplies for Iraqi war effort

From Christopher Walker, Aqaba

Russian military supplies for Iraq are pouring through the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba and the suspicion is growing in Western diplomatic circles in the Middle East that some of the ships may also be carrying chemicals used by Iraq to manufacture the toxic gases whose use in the Gulf War has been condemned by the United Nations.

The queue of vessels now waiting outside the port, including a number flying the hammer and sickle, stretches back for miles into the heat haze, while more than 200 huge lorries depart daily on the 72-hour desert route to Baghdad. Since the closure of the Iraqi port of Basra, Aqaba has become the main entry point for all Iraq's supplies, military and civilian.

Some of the ships are flying a red flag, which means the cargo is either explosives or another dangerous material.

There is no evidence yet that as a counter to the recent US prohibition on the supply of certain chemicals used in the manufacture of toxic gases, the Baghdad government will necessarily turn to the Soviet Union to keep up stocks. But that is the fear in many Western embassies in the Middle East, particularly after this week's threat by Iraq to use chemical weapons in the event of a new Iranian mass offensive.

Official statistics released to *The Times* showed that last year 2,454 ships unloaded at Aqaba, compared with 1,744 in 1981. More than 70 per cent of the cargo was bound for Iraq.

King Hussein of Jordan, who is deeply concerned about the consequences for his and other moderate Arab regimes in the event of an Iranian victory, publicly acknowledged the importance of Aqaba when he told British correspondents following the Queen visit that it provided a "lifeline" to his close ally, President Saddam Hussein.

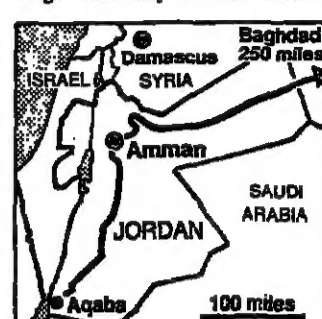
Many of the vehicles belonging to the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company, which has a total fleet of 1,500 and a number of Iraqi em-

ployees living in Aqaba, are carrying military equipment including thousands of vehicles supplied to Iraq by Russia and east European countries.

Mr Tewfik Kassar, head of the biggest Jordanian shipping agents, told me that there was no ban on any type of chemical product being imported through Aqaba. He attacked the US for "hypocrisy" over its ban on chemicals.

"Whatever does not suit the Americans, they make a big fuss about, along the lines of the famous saying that you cannot tell a judge he is a bastard. They have conveniently forgotten about the atomic bomb, about what happened in Vietnam, and about the cluster bombs, which they happily sell to Israel and which have maimed hundreds of women and children in Lebanon."

Mr Kassar, who was sitting by a large Soviet shipping calendar, refused to acknowledge that any of the contro-



versal chemical cargoes do pass through the Jordanian port.

During a boat trip, I counted three ships unloading in the port which were flying the red danger flag.

Shortly after, during a tour of the restricted dock area, permitted by security guards, I found large wooden crates from the Soviet Union, clearly marked, in Russian and English, for delivery to an Iraqi concern described as the State Oil Refinery and Gas Plant, the address of which was given as Post Box 3069, Baghdad.

On the same day, a British and a number of Iraqi em-

Special powers invoked as Punjab crisis grows

Delhi (Reuters) - The entire state of Punjab was declared a "dangerously disturbed area" last night after 10 rioters and two policemen were killed in violence sweeping the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

One of the dead policemen was reported to have been lynched by rioters and the other died of sword wounds.

An Indian Home Ministry spokesman said the declaration under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act gave security forces unlimited powers in an attempt to defuse spiralling communal violence between Hindus and Sikhs.

Amritsar and two other areas of the state had already been declared disturbed areas last month.

The situation had been brought under control by dusk and rioters and looters dispersed when police opened fire.

The wave of violence was set off by the killing yesterday morning of Mr V. N. Tiwari, a leading academic and Upper House member of the ruling Congress (I) Party who was shot at his home on the campus of Punjab University in the state capital Chandigarh by two Sikhs posing as students.

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Scotland wants four Sutherland masters

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The National Gallery of Scotland is negotiating to buy four superb Old Master paintings from the Duke of Sutherland, it was announced yesterday. They include a Titian and a Vermeer, and a pair of portraits by Philippe, Duc d'Orleans, the Regent of France during Louis XV's minority.

The announcement, foreshadowed in *The Times* on Saturday, came from Christie's, the auctioneers, who are advising the trustees of the two family trusts through which the paintings are owned.

Christie's gave no indication of the prices under discussion. However, a knowledgeable art dealer told *The Times* yesterday that the open market value should be about £4m, while "the Getty factor" might push this up to £5m. He was



Detail from "Virgin and Child with Saints".

referring to the pressure exerted on prices by the enormous purchasing power of the J Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

The Duke's trustees said the sales were intended to underwrite essential expenditure on the family estates in Scotland and the endowment of a charitable settlement that has

been set up to finance opening the gardens to the public.

The paintings are among the group of 30 superb pictures which the Duke of Sutherland has left on loan to the National Gallery of Scotland since 1946.

Their value has been conservatively estimated at about £6m. Mr Collis Thompson, director of the gallery, emphasized yesterday that there was at present no question of the other paintings being for sale. He said he was pleased with the progress of negotiations so far and added: "We believe there is no cause for concern about the future of the Sutherland collection in Edinburgh."

Christie's say the negotiations are taking place within the framework of the "usual private treaty procedures". This means that the large tax charge on the proceeds of an open market sale are being

taken into account: tax is waived on a private treaty sale to a national institution. If an open market valuation of about £5m were agreed, the gallery would probably have to pay, only about £2.5m.

The most valuable painting is probably the Lorenzo Lotto "Virgin and Child with Saints", a major Renaissance painting with echoes of Bellini who was an important early influence on Lotto's work (say £1.2m). The Titian depicts "The deposition of Christ" and was painted as an altarpiece for San Francesco della Vigna in Venice (say £1m).

Then there are two really outstanding Dutch seventeenth-century pictures, Jan Steen's "A school for boys and girls" and Gerard Dou's "Interior with a young violinist" (say £1m and £600,000 respectively).

RUC face political storm after officer cleared of murdering terrorist

A member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's special support unit was acquitted by a judge in Belfast yesterday of murdering an unarmed terrorist.

Constable John Robinson, aged 29, was found not guilty at the city's Crown Court of murdering Seamus Grew in Armagh city in December, 1982.

Grew, aged 32, and another member of the Irish National Liberation Army, Roderick Carroll, died when Mr Robinson, a former soldier, and another police officer, opened fire on their car. During his trial Mr Robinson had said that he believed his life was in danger.

In a reserved judgment, Mr Justice MacDermott said that the Crown had not satisfied him beyond reasonable doubt that the officer was guilty of murder.

There were gasps from the public gallery where members of Grew's family were sitting. The RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, and senior officers of the force head-

quarters are understood to be bracing themselves for a political storm after disclosure during the seven-day trial of police procedure, none of which was disputed.

Mr Robinson told the judge that after the shooting three senior police officers were involved in concocting a story in an attempt to stage a cover-up and to give the impression that Grew was shot after he drove through a police road block.

The officer said that it had been a planned operation aimed at capturing Dominic McGlinchey, said to be the INLA's leader, who was a fugitive wanted on both sides of the Irish border, and that on the night of the shooting, RUC Special Branch detectives had been operating in the Irish Republic.

At the opening of the trial, the Crown said that Grew and Carroll had been under surveillance by security forces because it was believed they were planning an assassination.

The judge said that he was not concerned with allegations of a police cover-up, only whether Mr Robinson was guilty.

But he said that if Mr Robinson had made a statement to the police which contained secrets or operational matters, arrangements could have been made to have them edited out. A person who might have to face a murder charge should not be told to tell a story.

After the verdict Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that the case was a "decided body-blow to the hope that justice will ever be fairly administered in Northern Ireland".

He wanted to know if the RUC Chief Constable intended to take any action against the officers named in court as part of cover-up allegations. The claim that Special Branch men operated across the border in the Irish Republic at the time of the shooting should also be answered, he said.

Five-year struggle over site ends

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

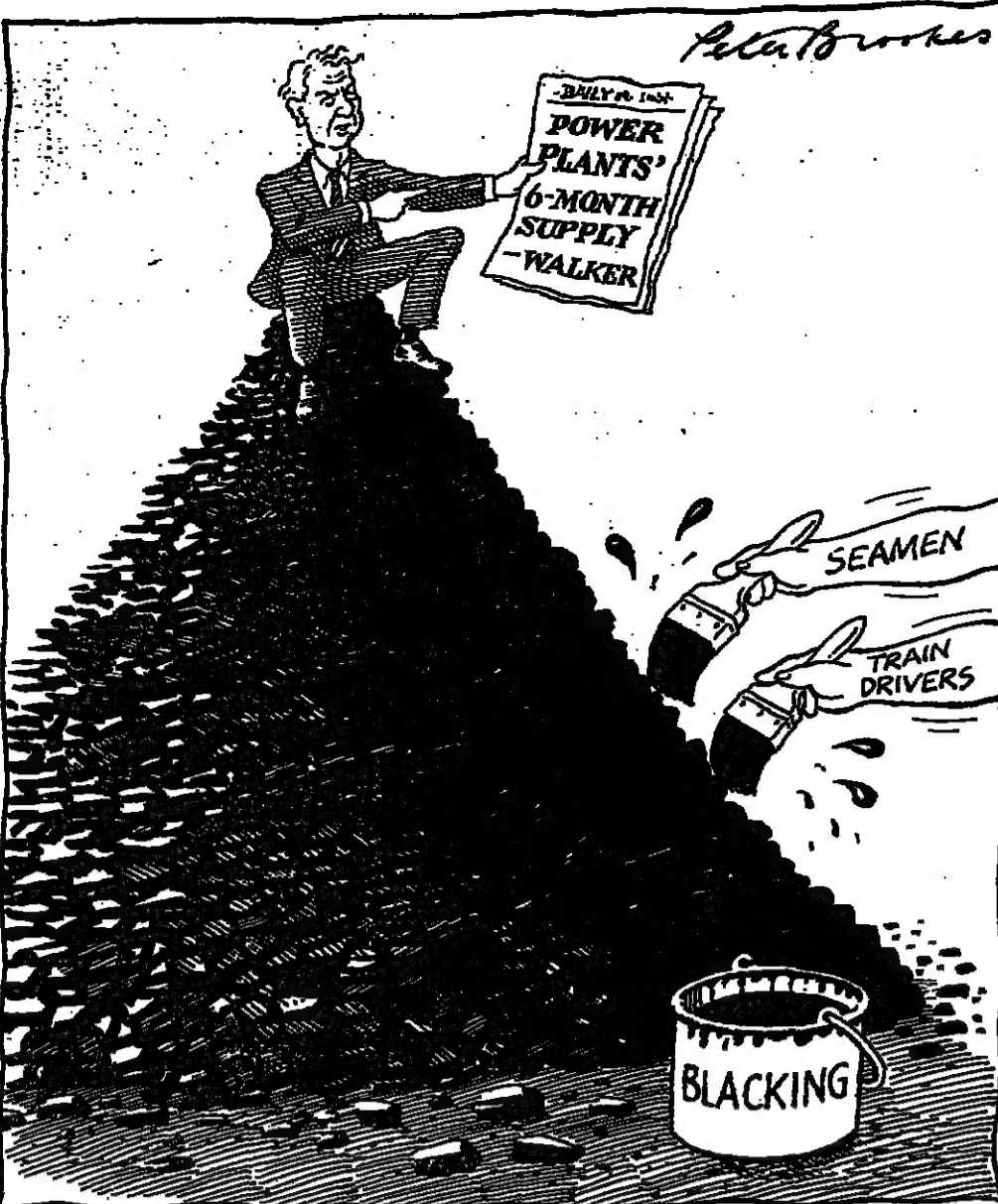
After five years of controversy, the attempt by Greycourt Commercial Estates to develop the Coin Street site close to County Hall on the South Bank of the Thames has ended. The Greater London Council yesterday announced it had purchased the land from Greycourt for £2.7m.

Mr George Nicholson, chairman of the GLC planning committee, said the work would now begin on the £30m scheme designed by the Association of Waterloo Groups (AWG). Both the AWG scheme and the Greycourt project, designed by Mr Richard Rogers, have outline planning permission from the Environment Secretary.

The AWG scheme, which has the approval of both Lambeth and Southwark councils in whose boroughs the site lies, includes 400 homes, 26,000 square feet of studio and workshop accommodation, a park and a viewing platform on top of the Oxo tower landmark.

GLC politicians do not accept that the council will be abolished as the Government proposes and Mr Nicholson was confident that the AWG plan would go ahead. Lambeth Council has already made provision for the housing in its allocations for the few years.

The purchase marks the end of Greycourt's interest after three public inquiries and two High Court cases. In a statement last night.



"It will have no effect, you know."

Power pickets face long wait

From Craig Seton, Nottingham

The handful of striking mineworkers picketing the 2,000 megawatt Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station near Nottingham yesterday had only to cast an eye to the huge coal stocks looming behind them estimated to be more than one million tons, to realize the size of their task.

In the Midlands, where power stations produce about a third of the country's electricity, one leading figure with an intimate knowledge of the industry said: "Ever since

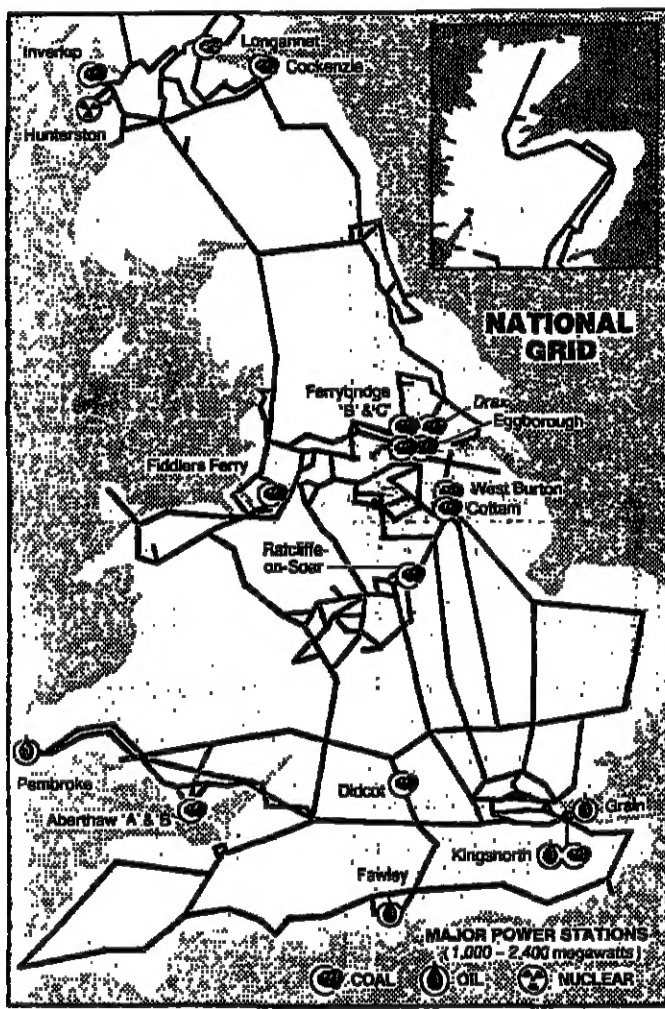
full load and without fresh supplies. One said that the estimates of coal stocks at power stations were about right and the miners had a long wait before they could affect electricity generation.

Mr Jack Tetley, regional organizer in Nottingham for the General Municipal Boilermakers' and Allied Trade Union, who represents men working at 10 Midlands power stations, said yesterday: "Our members have been instructed to work normally. There is some sympathy for the miners but our men have got a job to do and shutting down power stations is not something we would envisage doing ourselves, let alone for somebody else."

Mr Len Sturgess, area official for the Midlands of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union, which represents power station craftsmen, said: "Ninety days' supplies of coal are common to most power stations. I don't think these stations have supplies for six months."

The National Coal Board has postponed its summer price discount on coal, which was due to come into effect on May 1, and warned customers that if the miners' dispute continues to the end of April, there will be no discount this year.

Mr Malcolm Edwards, the board's marketing director, said there were insufficient stocks to begin the discount as planned.



Power lines: The national grid showing the main power stations in England, Wales, and Scotland

Dairy processors fear double curb

By Robin Young

Amid continuing doubt as to how the EEC's scheme to cut milk production is to be implemented in Britain, dairy farmers and already there are 10,000 pleading that they are special cases.

"As a milk producer by-passing the board, I am already penalized by a board levy to ensure that I do not get an unfair advantage over Unigate and Express Dairies."

Mr Michael More-Molyneux, managing partner of Loseley Park in Surrey, said yesterday: "It seems that if we are to continue expanding, our dairy products business, as we have set ourselves up to do, we will not be allowed to do it from our own farm production but will have to buy more milk from the Milk Marketing Board."

"We are going to be hit quite hard, because for us the milk production is only part of the business. We have invested in land, buildings and equipment to expand not only that, but also our processing business."

Mr John Taylor, of Cricket St Thomas, Somerset, said: "Britain has 39,000 dairy farmers and already there are 10,000 pleading that they are special cases."

Mr Patrick Rance, the authority on British cheeses, said: "We do not want to see the small men, who are producing all that is best, driven out of business. It is time for a national review. The people who should be driven out are the low - standard producers."

Leading article, page 13

Tory MPs press for privatization

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Strong Conservative pressure is building up for legislation to force local authorities to shed services that could be more efficiently run by private companies.

The party's election manifesto said that many Tory authorities had saved ratepayers' money by putting services such as refuse collection out to tender. It added: "We shall encourage every possible saving by this policy."

But the Prime Minister said in the Commons last December: "Progress remains disappointingly slow. We are considering what measures could be taken to speed things up."

Last week she told MPs that she was still dissatisfied, but ministers were reluctant to legislate because it would require a highly technical Bill.

But in the Commons yesterday 167 Tory backbenchers, including 18 parliamentary private secretaries, voted for a private member's Bill expressing support for local privatization legislation.

The Bill was lost by three votes because the Tories were only on a two-line whip. One party source said that some ministers had to be restrained from going into the lobbies to support the backbench proposal, which had been sponsored by Mr Christopher Hopes, MP for Southampton Itchen and former leader of Wandsworth Borough Council in London.

But an indication of the pressure for action was given to The Times last night by Mr

Malcolm Thornton, parliamentary private secretary to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Thornton, MP for Crosby, said that councils would still be refusing to sell council houses if the Government had not forced them into it.

He said: There is evidence that direction from the centre is needed to get the dynamic effect downwards.

"I would far rather see the momentum starting at the local level: it is in their interest, after all. One is looking for them to pick up the ball and run. If they are not prepared to do that, then the Government is going to have to take the decision for them."

The Association of London Authorities decided yesterday to seek survival through a change to its rules (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

It was formed last year by Labour-led councils in the capital, which had left the Conservative-dominated London Boroughs Association. A High Court judge ruled 10 days ago that a subscription should not have been paid to the association by the Greater London Council because the association was "party-political in nature".

After a meeting of the association's policy committee last night it was announced that the association would meet next week to examine ways of working within the judgment.

Endowment grants vital, National Trust says

By Hugh Clayton

The National Trust yesterday defended the high cost of endowments needed for it to accept historic houses.

In the great hall of Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire, opened to the public in its restored state yesterday, Mr Corvase Jackson-Stops, the trust's architectural adviser, said "seventeenth century tapestries now on the walls were used as bedding for dogs by a tenant in 1880."

Lieutenant-Colonel J R G Stanton, chairman of the trust's East Midlands region, said some of the walls had been approaching dilapidation a year later.

Canons Ashby is the first restoration mansion to be secured with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The fund's £1.1m grant included £1m for an endowment.

"The provision of the large endowments sounds a lot," Corvase Stanton said, "but the trust has to look 250 years ahead and maybe more."

Hunt to stay in the Falklands

Sir Rex Hunt is to remain as Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands for an extra 15 months, not being replaced until September next year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced yesterday.

The extension will be welcomed by the islanders, who have been lobbying for it. It will also be welcomed by Sir Rex himself, who had made known that he would like to remain in the Falklands until he retires at the age of 60 in June, 1986.

Charity projects may be closed

A charity, which runs training schemes for 1,000 ex-offenders and young people with few or no qualifications, claimed yesterday that seven of its eleven projects face closure because Manpower Services Commission funds to support it are "overcommitted".

The Apex Charitable Trust, which launched the schemes a year ago under the MSC's Voluntary Projects Programme, said it had been told that grants totalling £350,000 towards the plans would not be renewed.

The MSC said decisions had yet to be taken.

Special powers in Liverpool

Emergency powers were granted yesterday to the leader of Liverpool City Council, Mr John Hamilton, his deputy, Mr Derek Hatton, the chairman of the performance review committee, Mr Tony Byrne, and his deputy, Mr Frank Mills.

The council has been unable to authorize new spending since last Sunday, the start of the financial year, because its Labour group's attempt to pass an illegally high budget ended in deadlock.

Strike at NUJ head office

Staff employed by the National Union of Journalists head office are due to go on strike today because of a dispute over pay and the introduction of new technology.

They are members of the Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), Senior head office officials, who are members of the NUJ agreed not to cross their picket line.

Rugby chiefs set to defy sanctions

The Welsh Rugby Union seemed poised yesterday to defy sanctions by inviting three South Africans to play against Wales in Saturday's match marking the completion of the £10m national stadium in Cardiff.

Anti-apartheid demonstrators from all over Britain intend to hold a rally during the match, to be attended by Dr Danie Craven, the South African Rugby Board's president.

Rugby clubs in mid-Glamorgan, however are furious about a county council ultimatum that they must write urging the union to accept the Gleneagles agreement or lose the use of pitches and premises.

School plans challenged

Strathclyde Regional Council plans to bus certain senior secondary school pupils to their lessons at a "consortium" of schools are being challenged by parents organizations and by the Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teachers' union in Scotland.

They regard the proposals as an attack on the comprehensive system which will produce "elite" schools. A rally in Motherwell last night attacked the plans, which Strathclyde believes will meet the dramatic drop expected in school rolls.

Overseas selling prices: Algeria Feb 29, Belgium 8 60, Canada 8 60, Denmark 8 60, France 8 60, Germany 8 60, Greece 8 60, Hong Kong 8 60, India 8 60, Ireland 8 60, Italy 8 60, Japan 8 60, Korea 8 60, Malaysia 8 60, Mexico 8 60, New Zealand 8 60, Norway 8 60, Singapore 8 60, South Africa 8 60, Sweden 8 60, Switzerland 8 60, Taiwan 8 60, Thailand 8 60, USA 8 60, USSR 8 60, West Germany 8 60, Yugoslavia 8 60.

Scargill tells Russia of pit class war

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Arthur Scargill, who last August caused a furore by attacking Mrs Thatcher and Mr Rangan in a speech in Moscow, told Russians yesterday that the miners' strike was not just about pit closures but was the start of a class war against the British ruling class.

In an interview with *Truth*, the Soviet trade union daily, Mr Scargill said that the strike had developed into a broad struggle for the fundamental rights of all

working class people in Britain. "The workers see and know that businessmen, stockbrokers and the big press proprietors easily spend more on a bottle of wine than an old age pensioner gets to live on for a week," Mr Scargill said. "Figuratively speaking, this is the barrel of social gunpowder which has been exploded by the miners' anger."

Under the headline "The miners will not give up" and "at the front in the class struggle" Mr Scargill was quoted as saying that although the immediate issue was the closure of 20 pits and the loss of thousands of jobs.

If Mr Ian MacGregor, the Coal Board chairman, succeeded in abolishing "hundreds of thousands" of jobs, "then absolutely nobody will be safe from the insane, destructive policies of the present Government."

Lunch staff fight 17% pay cut

By David Cross

Hertfordshire's 2,400 or so dinner ladies, angered by the prospect of losing their jobs, are planning their hopes on the courts to overrule a 17 per cent pay cut threatened by their employers.

Their union, the National Union of Public Employees, is to seek a High Court ruling within the next week or so to force Hertfordshire County Council to abandon a decision to impose new contracts incorporating the wage cut.

The dinner ladies are particularly incensed by the short notice they have been given to accept the new terms of employment under the implicit threat of losing their jobs. At Legatts Secondary School in north Watford, for example, the 11 supervisors, cooks, and assistants in the canteen received new draft contracts only during the past week.

They were originally told that they would have to sign the papers by the end of this week but that deadline is expected to be extended for a few days while the High Court examines their cases.

It is all quite ridiculous, the canteen supervisor, Mrs Kathleen Harvey, said. "We have had this threat hanging over our heads for the last month and it makes all of us feel so resentful. Why are we bothering, we ask ourselves, when we



Dinner ladies at Legatts School, Hertfordshire, ready to serve some of the pupils (Photograph: Chris Harris).

have worked so hard and conscientiously all these years?"

Mrs Harvey, who has worked as a dinner lady for 23 years, 17 of them at Legatts, calculates that she stands to lose £680 a year, or nearly 15 per cent of her gross pay. For Mrs Ian Harris, one of her assistants, whose gross salary

last year was £2,883 for a 30-hour week, the loss will be 20 per cent, she has calculated.

To add insult to injury, the canteen staff will have to pay 20p a day for their lunch which they have hitherto been receiving free of charge. Mrs Harris' husband is a messenger and her contribution to the family budget is vital.

Sale room

Somme commander's 25 medals fetch £19,000

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

The historic medals awarded to General Lord Rawlinson of Trent, one of the British Army's key commanders during the First World War, were sold at Christie's yesterday for £19,000 (estimate £12,000 to £15,000).

"Rawly" commanded the Fourth Army during the battle of the Somme and his advice to revise tactics was one of the most important factors in eventual victory. The 25 medals included the Order of the Bath,

the Order of St Michael and St George, and the Royal Victorian Order.

The medals had been sold by his family at Sotheby's in 1969 for £1,900. Yesterday the family tried desperately to buy them back but were left the underbidders. The medals went to Spink & Son, the London dealers.

The nine medals awarded to Field Marshal Sir Neville Bowles Chamberlain (1820-1902), including gold GCB and Empress of India medals, sold for £18,000 (estimate £8,000 to

£9,000). They were sent for sale by Chamberlain's family.

The medal sale, totalling £226,215 with only 1 per cent unsold.

Christie's was also surprised by bidders' enthusiasm in its sale of Old Master drawings. A spray of pink roses with a brimstone butterfly, painted on vellum by Pierre Joseph Redouté, the most sought-after French natural history illustrator, secured the day's top price at £27,000 to the Fine Art

Society. Christie's had estimated only £4,000 to £6,000.

The red chalk Roman views by Hubert Robert, still in their original eighteenth-century mounts, also soared beyond estimate. A view of St Peter's through the portico secured £25,920 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000), and a view of the Villa Barberini £10,800.

Sotheby's, however, demonstrated that the market for Gothic wood carvings, so popular in Germany in the 1970s, has not recovered.

To all Conundrum treasure hunters... stop digging!

The mystery of the 12 gold eggs has brought pleasure to many thousands of families throughout the British Isles. Unfortunately a minority of treasure hunters have ignored the repeated advice that the caskets are not buried on property that is clearly private, on sites of archaeological interest, on National Trust land, or anywhere where digging is likely to cause offence or inconvenience to anyone. So we have recovered the remaining three caskets:

'Island Mystery', 'Conundrum' and 'A Giant's Place' but the hunt goes on!

HOW TO CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH

First crack any or all of the 3 remaining mysteries. Then send us a detailed written description of where you think the casket was originally buried - preferably accompanied by a sketch map with an Ordnance Survey reference. The first correct entry received for each casket will be awarded the egg; existing written solutions will be considered.

NOTE: If you think that an explanation of how the John Tregear Mystery was solved would help you, send a SAE to 'Solution', Conundrum, PO Box 100, Altrincham, Cheshire.

- Terms and Conditions (supplemental)
- 1) Entrants should send their written solutions in ball-point on a sheet of white paper no less than 6" x 9" by 31 December 1984. If a sketch map is attached this should be on a separate similar sized sheet.
 - 2) There is no limit to the number of separate entries.
 - 3) Your name, address and telephone number should be clearly printed on the written solution and sketch map.
 - 4) Don Shaw, the author of the book 'Conundrum', will select the winning solutions. No correspondence will be entered into regarding claims; Don Shaw's decisions will be final and binding.
 - 5) Responses will not be accepted for entries late, delayed, mislaid or damaged in the post or offered for delivery insufficiently stamped. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules of entry requirements will be disqualified.
 - 6) In the event of any inconsistencies these conditions shall apply.

Remember, obey the country code, act responsibly and try not to cause annoyance. For up-to-date news on which eggs remain to be claimed call 01-631 0031 from 6th April. Send in your solutions to: Conundrum, The Cadbury's Creme Egg Mystery, PO Box 100, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Woolworth plans to sell 34 stores in tough weeding-out

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Woolworth store chain, whose tough new management has already improved financial performance, is negotiating to sell 34 stores which are not meeting its targets. Among them are about a dozen larger stores.

If all the sales go through, over 1,000 jobs will be threatened according to the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw). Some stores may be sold for redevelopment for other purposes, but stores sold as going concerns might retain some jobs under new owners.

Sales of all the stores would reduce the number of Woolworth outlets to fewer than 900. It was unclear last night whether the projected sales might include one of the dozen Woolco supermarkets located mostly on the edge of towns.

Areas affected include Birmingham, Leicester, Sheffield and Cardiff, according to Usdaw. Some of the larger stores involved are said to be in Huddersfield, Blackpool, Farnworth, Lancaster and Slough.

Woolworth said last night that it had told Usdaw and staff at affected stores that 34 were being surveyed by potential buyers. The company added: "No agreements have been reached with any potential purchasers and no statement will be made until such time."

It could be several weeks before any contracts are signed. The stores under negotiation clearly do not meet the new targets set by Woolworth Holdings. Last month, announcing sharply increased group profits for the first full year of trading since Woolworth was acquired by a consortium late in 1982, Mr John Becker, chairman of Woolworth Holdings, said that some stores would not meet Woolworth's new retailing criteria and others were unlikely ever to meet the rigorous financial standards which had now been set.

Woolworth, still one of the top five British retailers, had about 1,000 outlets at one time. The old Woolworth management had started to sell off stores during 1982 and in that year store sales threw up a

surplus of £26.7m. Last year another 17 were sold, producing a property surplus of £35m.

How far the new Woolworth policies might mean the sale of further stores the company is not saying. Mr Becker has made it clear that he sees the complete revitalizing of Woolworth as a seven-year programme. There is a new concentration on strong departments like confectionery, do-it-yourself and records.

The one-time sixpenny store, which later boasted it sold nothing for more than a shilling, is now intent on persuading customers to spend more during each visit to a Woolworth store. One new sector it is moving into is wine sales.

While Woolworth stores are being slimmed down, the company's increasingly profitable B&Q do-it-yourself chain is being expanded. There are 115 B&Q outlets, and 20 more due.

The remaining unanswered question at Woolworth is whether, once the poorly-performing outlets are weeded out, it will then open new Woolworth stores which conform to the new trading philosophy.

Organ donor wife's hope for others

By Thomson Prentice

The widow of a man whose body provided donor organs for five transplanted patients said yesterday that she hoped her decision to permit the surgery would encourage other people to sign and carry donor cards.

Mr Tony Robinson, a steel fabricator, aged 40, died suddenly last weekend after a brain haemorrhage. Surgeons removed his heart, kidneys, pancreas, and corneas after Mrs Barbara Robinson, aged 30, gave permission. "It was not a difficult decision because we had discussed it all before and he had a donor card," she said.

In a remarkable and possibly unique series of operations within hours of her decision, the organs were transplanted into patients who were on waiting lists for surgery.

A woman patient at Harefield Hospital, west London, received Mr Robinson's heart; two patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, received his kidneys; and one was also given the pancreas; and a man and a woman at Bromsgrove General Hospital, near Mrs Robinson's home in Hereford and Worcester, were each given a cornea graft.

"My husband had told me that if anything happened to him, his body must not be wasted," Mrs Robinson said. She said he had been kept breathing artificially at Bromsgrove General Hospital after suffering the haemorrhage last Friday, but his brain had stopped functioning. She agreed to have the life support system switched off and the transplant arrangements were made.

Science Correspondent

Surgeons at the hospital assessed Mr Robinson's body and found that he fulfilled the criteria of age, fitness, and absence of serious disease.

Dr Barry Fisher, the consultant in charge of the intensive care unit at the hospital, said yesterday: "It would have been unthinkable not to have offered the organs for transplantation, given the permission of the next of kin and the cooperation of the medical staff who had been caring for the patient."

Dr Fisher, who did not identify Mrs Robinson by name, said: "She was keen to cooperate with us to the whole extent. It was very much her view that if other people could benefit it would help her to adjust to her husband's death and that his death would not be a complete waste."

None of the hospitals or their medical staff had been prepared to identify Mrs Robinson yesterday in keeping with their strict rules about the anonymity of organ donors. However, Mrs Robinson allowed herself to be interviewed.

The recipient of her husband's heart is a Sicilian housewife who had been receiving treatment at Harefield Hospital. She was said to be making good progress yesterday. The other patients involved in transplants from Mr Robinson's donor organs were also said to be progressing satisfactorily.

In Glasgow, a campaign was launched by the Lord Provost, Dr Michael Kelly, to set up a computerized register of potential kidney donors.

Radio aid for school computers

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

A radio programme to help teachers to assess the merits of different types of educational computer software is being devised by the BBC for transmission late in the spring.

More than 200,000 BBC Microcomputers have been sold in Britain and many are being used at school or in the home as an educational tool. There is, however, the BBC says, a dearth of good computer programs and selectivity is crucial.

"The trouble is you cannot get software on approval because it is too easily copied. You pay for it you have got it and you are stuck with it," a spokesman said.

The project has been devised by BBC School Radio which celebrates its sixtieth anniversary today. The first two broadcasts in the *Software Review* series will be transmitted at night, starting at 12.30am on May 26 and June 9.

Sheep farmers' auction protest

Welsh hill farmers protested at a London auction yesterday over the sale of Black Mountain, a 25,000-acre estate in the Brecon Beacons once owned by Lord Cawdor where they and their ancestors have grazed sheep for centuries (Michael Horsnell writes).

Nearly 400 farmers who enjoy common grazing rights formed five syndicates in an attempt to buy the land. However, shortly before it came up for auction, the owner, who remains anonymous, told the auctioneers Harman Healey and Co that he had sold it privately.

Police recover stolen terrier

Barney, a pedigree Yorkshire Terrier, was yesterday reunited with its owner, Mrs Jean Claydon, a horse breeder of Kelydon, Essex, after it had been taken during the weekend and after a ransom of £2,000 had been demanded. The dog was found after police went to an address in Kimpton, Hertfordshire.

The police said a man and a woman were being interviewed.

Shot PC home

Police Constable Timothy Phillips, who was shot last month after he stopped the occupants of a car, left hospital in Chichester yesterday, with the bullet still lodged in his thigh. Doctors have said it must stay there.

Flight record

The world distance record for flying a microlight aircraft was broken yesterday when Mr Peter Davies, aged 27, from Blackpool, flew 340 miles from an airfield in Suffolk to Land's End. He almost doubled the previous record of 180 miles.



Winston Smith on film

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen," Orwell's Winston Smith sat down to write his diary. "April 4th, 1984. Last night to the flicks..."

Tonight, April 4, 1984, a thousand people will go to the flicks at the National Film Theatre in London, to see the 1954 television version and the 1956 film of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on the very day that most dismal of futures was set to

unfold in George Orwell's novel, published in 1949.

At the same time, the 1984 remake of the film will be filming in Chelsea, starring John Hurt (above) as Winston Smith.

The new film, for which Orwell's widow Sonia gave permission before she died in 1980, is due for a world premiere in London on September 13 (Photograph: John Voos).

Why fewer women get firsts - or thirds

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Women get fewer first-class university degrees than men but they also produce fewer thirds. The probable reason is that there are fewer geniuses and fewer dunces among the female sex, according to some new research.

An analysis of honours degrees at British universities in 1978 and 1979 shows that women scored better in firsts in the small groups of education, agriculture, and professional subjects. They also did well in engineering.

However, in arts subjects - languages, literature, and the humanities - in which they are disproportionately heavily represented, they gained less than half the percentage of firsts achieved by the men. Mr Ernest Rudd, of Essex University's sociology department says in an article in *Studies in Higher Education*.

In science and social studies they performed a little better but still gained less than three quarters of the percentage of firsts achieved by men.

At the same time Mr Rudd found women did as well as men at the demanding level required for an upper second first degree.

He notes that this difference in performance between the sexes has remained unchanged during a time when attitudes to women's careers and sex equality have changed substantially.

Mr Rudd says there are four possible explanations - that academics and examiners are prejudiced, that women are under pressure not to compete, that it is the product of female medical or psychological conditions, or that it reflects a difference between the sexes in their distribution of abilities.

He decides the fourth explanation seems most likely.

Studies in Higher Education, vol 9, no 1, 1984 (Carfax Publishing Company, PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire).

House buying

Conveyance changes 'need no safeguard'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is against extra safeguards to protect the consumer against conflicts of interest when solicitors employed by banks and building societies undertake conveyancing.

In a consultative paper issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday, it says that it does not believe additional measures are needed to safeguard the public, although conflicts of interest will arise.

Adequate protection, it says, afforded by the fair trading laws, the Solicitors' Practice Rules, and the Law Society's compulsory insurance scheme against negligence.

But it is considering a code of practice for bodies doing conveyancing. "Severe" conflicts of interest might arise, it says, if other bodies wanted to provide conveyancing. It questions whether solicitors working for builders or estate agents, for instance, should be prevented from acting for buyers.

There could be conflicts of interest if solicitors with a bank or building society were to act for vendor and buyers. But the Solicitors' Practice Rules, which prohibit such action except in rare circumstances, should be adequate protection.

The rules will need amending, however, so that solicitors are freed from restrictions on touting for work on advertising and on fee-sharing with unqualified people.

There would also be conflicts of interest where the solicitor was dealing with the mortgage, the consultative paper says.

The solicitor might not be able to give independent advice where the client wanted advice on the best kind of mortgage; where the lending institution needed a lease amending before granting a mortgage; and where it wanted to withhold part of a loan pending work on the property.

From the solicitor's point of view, a conflict between the interests of his employer and of the borrower "would be a conflict between his duty to his employer and his duty to the customer", the paper says.

But that would be similar to a solicitor faced with two clients with conflicting interests.

In such cases, the customer must be protected while minimizing the extra expense and delay which would result from instructing a new solicitor part of the way through the process.

Mr John Morris, Opposition legal affairs spokesman, said that the Government seemed to have ignored entirely the Master of the Rolls' recent comments urging the Law Society to look to the propriety of solicitors acting both for lenders and borrowers.

Consultative document from the Lord Chancellor's Department, Neville House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LS.

Homes package plan

By Our Property Correspondent

Black Horse Agencies, the largest estate agency grouping in Britain, is considering the provision of a complete package for house buyers, including conveyancing if the Government allows it in forthcoming legislation.

Black Horse, owned by Lloyds Bank, has in two years expanded its network to 156 agencies and is looking to

expand its operation further, "where it is commercially sensible to do so". Mr Roy Mercer, general manager, said yesterday.

If the scheme went ahead it would not be through the employment of "hordes of in-house solicitors". Firms of solicitors in the areas of the agencies would probably be used, he said.



Stolen porcelain: a 1750 Chelsea parakeet (left), a nodding Chinese figure, dated 1730, and a hawk owl, dated 1749-52.

£1m porcelain theft

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives are investigating the theft of more than 100 antique porcelain items, worth a total of £1m, from a specialist antique shop in New Bond Street, central London.

The police believe that the thieves not only selected what they stole, possibly to order, but may also have brought their own packing cases to move the items which dated from the eighteenth century.

The robbery at the Antique Porcelain Co took place on Saturday evening, but details were not released until yesterday after an inventory of 102 porcelain birds and animals had

been completed. The most valuable item stolen is a pair of Meissen jays worth £140,000.

Bow and Chelsea pieces were also taken. The firm said yesterday that some of the missing items were very rare. The robbers broke in through a first floor window after bypassing the alarm system. The police believe that they passed the haul down to a vehicle by rope.

The alarm is thought to have been triggered as they left. When security men arrived 10 minutes later they found that the main doors had been tied from inside to give the thieves time to escape.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said it is published just as the state-owned National Bus Company, in the opposite camp, is gathering its own evidence on the basis of a study by Professor Kenneth Cwiliam, of Leeds University. That says that early morning, late evening, and Sunday services, as well as some peak-hour runs, would have to be stopped.

The development of new ideas in the bus industry after the partial deregulation in 1980 had been inhibited by the persistence of the route licensing system, under which objections could be made in the public interests, Professor Hibbs said.

The memorandum, drawn up by Professor John Hibbs, director of transport studies at Birmingham Polytechnic, was requested from the institute by

Instead, he recommended a system under which licences would be granted automatically, with no one empowered to object, so long as the operator made clear how long he intended to run the service and gave advance warning if he intended to renew the licence. Those who stopped operating without permission could have their licence withdrawn.

Future services could be run by small existing firms, by newcomers, by privatized public companies, or by joint freight and passenger enterprises.

Some of the threatened uneconomic - routes would in fact be taken over by other firms, Professor Hibbs said.



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PARLIAMENT April 3 1984

Labour demands for debate on police behaviour

PICKETING

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate in the Commons on the threatened arrests, arrests and the conditions of picketing involved in the current miners' dispute.

He said many of his constituents had attempted to carry out peaceful picketing in the Nottinghamshire coal field in furtherance of an industrial dispute. There had been police harassment, not only arrests of those attempting to go into the coal field but also people being turned out of their transport.

On the night when a Yorkshire miner lost his life, four bus loads of Yorkshire miners were taken to turn away 10 miles from their destination.

That had happened not only when they attempted to enter the coal field but also when they were leaving. Some miners from his constituency were leaving a coal field after peaceful picketing when they were surrounded by the police, their names and addresses taken and the conditions of picketing were heavily fined or jailed.

They were then given a police escort out of the county, including two police cars and two police motorcycles.

No charges were made on that occasion, but on other occasions when people were charged a condition of bail was that they should not return to the NCB work places again. Was that not like saying they were guilty of these offences without a hearing?

The creation of a no-go area by

sealing off Nottinghamshire was a threat to all members of society, not just miners. Some of his constituents were staying in what they described as safe houses inside the road blocks.

This picture was unprecedented in modern industrial history. All this should have urgent consideration in a debate in the House.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) I do not in any way underestimate what he has said. We debated this matter last week on two orders. We touched on it yesterday. We had energy questions yesterday. There is going to be an opportunity later this week to raise the matter on the Easter adjournment debates. I therefore regret I do not consider the matter he has raised is appropriate for discussion under Standing Order No 10.

Mr Don Cusack (Mansfield, Lab) said minorities also had civil rights and many people in Nottinghamshire would see the problems in a different light and would take exception to some of the remarks made.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said the Speaker had referred to two police cars and two police motorcycles. But these dealt with concessionary coal and a new redundancy scheme. The Speaker had made it clear that there could be no reference to the questions of picketing, civil rights or police action.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesfield, Lab) asked for the Speaker's guidance on how this matter might be brought before the House. He and other MPs in mining constituencies received reports every day of people being

Barron: There has been police harassment

arrested, held in cells, and asked which way they were going.

If there was great public disquiet and Parliament was unable to discuss these matters, it increased the tension and anxiety and brought the House into disrepute.

Mr Alan Bell (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lab) said it seemed to have escaped the notice of some Labour MPs that the opportunity to raise precisely this matter was in the hands of the Leader of the Opposition as today's business was chosen by him. Mr Kinnoch did not appear to have used that opportunity.

The Speaker: I will content myself with saying I do not propose to change my ruling on the Standing Order No 10 this day but I will of course consider the matter carefully. I fully recognize the pressure for a debate on this matter in the House and I will consider the matter as it arises.

During further points of order during which Mr Bell's complaint that insufficient opposition time had been allocated to the Liberal Party, The Speaker agreed with a suggestion by Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, that the Select Committee on Procedure should have a fresh look at the standing order governing the allocation of Opposition time in the light of the composition of the present Parliament.

Stringent conditions for new weapons

TERRORISM

Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, said the Prime Minister should stop the purchase of sub-machine guns for use by Scotland Yard officers in bodyguard duties during the economic summit conference in London this summer.

But Mrs Thatcher refused to give such an undertaking saying that only a very small number of the guns were being purchased and they would be issued only under the most stringent conditions.

Mr Kinnoch, during Commons question time, said: We have heard in the last few days of the decision to permit some police to be armed with sub-machine guns. The whole House will want to safeguard the security of summit leaders coming here in June as we want to safeguard the security of anyone else likely to be the target of terrorist attacks.

But what on earth is the use of supplying sub-machine guns for the purpose of personal security? Mr Thatcher: The Home Secretary has approved the purchase by the Metropolitan Police of a very small number - (Labour shouts of How many?) - of sub-machine guns. They are intended for the protection of persons of high risk and will be issued only under the most stringent conditions and in the most exceptional circumstances when the degree of threat against the person being protected justifies such a precaution.

Authority for their issue may not be given by a person below the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Mr Kinnoch: Even taking in the interests of security on this matter, that response and, it appears, the procedures laid down are much too vague to justify the huge change in the disposition of security personnel in this country.

Can the Prime Minister imagine what the effect would be of a pursuit with the sub-machine gun officers on patrol on a crowd in a London street?



Kinnoch: Procedures are much too vague

Will she reconsider the decision and ensure permission to purchase and bare these arms is withdrawn?

Mr Thatcher: The Home Secretary took this decision after very careful consideration. Police issued with these weapons will be trained to a very high standard by the Metropolitan Police's own firearms training specialists in techniques appropriate to the role of the police. It is most unlikely to be trained by military personnel.

Dr Alan Glyn (Windsor and Maidenhead, C): Thames Valley police officers have complained that they have not received the firearms training they need.

Mr John Evans (St Helens, North, Lab): Will she take the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) on one side and point out to him that no inquiry is required into the plight of long-term unemployed over-50s in this country, and that he could assist them immediately by paying them the long-term rate of supplementary benefit?

Mr Thatcher: No. To do that requires £450m extra expenditure. I am always being urged by the Opposition to reduce the burden of taxation. I cannot do that and increase public expenditure.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab): Has the Prime Minister seen reports about the appalling conditions in which many homeless families are forced to live in inner London, especially in Princes Road in Commercial Road, Tower Hamlets? Will she take urgent action to see that local authorities have sufficient resources to meet the problem or does she want the homeless, as well as the unemployed, on her conscience?

Mrs Thatcher: The first thing is to fill the many local authority houses which have been vacant for a year.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, had asked why it was taking so long to reply to the Argentine peace proposals of February 18.

Mrs Thatcher said the Government had sent proposals to which the Argentine Government had responded and Britain would shortly respond to them.

Joseph sets out his aims for broadening the curriculum

EDUCATION

Five additional aims, parallel to the five prolonged programme for education he had set out in a speech at Sheffield in early January, were set out by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, in a Commons debate on investment in education.

The five aims were: a technical and practical element in the curriculum for all abilities; widening the degree to which girls took other than traditional feminine subjects; broadening A levels; encouraging discussion in the classroom and improving articulation; and injecting relevance and economic awareness.

The Government had admitted that education was not a top spending priority. Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said: Opening the debate by moving a motion deploring Government curbs on local authority educational expenditure and plans to cut back on educational spending.

In 1978-79 the Government was spending \$600m more on education than on defence. In 1983-84 the gap was over £2b more on defence than on education. The gap was likely to rise to £3.5b in favour of defence in 1984-85.

Mr Radice said the local education authorities, particularly the Labour ones, which Sir Keith Joseph had wrongly accused of overspending, had saved him and enabled him to claim he had kept spending stable.

As expenditure was squeezed so "pay as you learn" was increasing. Tory MPs did not object to parents having to pay for education directly out of their own pocket, but the Opposition rejected the view that a child's right to decent education provision should depend on where he or she lived.

Looking further ahead, he was deeply disturbed by the negative tone of the Government's Green Paper on public spending over the

next 10 years and what it had to say about cuts in education spending. It was time that the Secretary of State and his Cabinet colleagues understood that spending on education was not, as apparently believed, inherently wasteful, a mortal sin, something that had to be cut back. They should realize that this was a rich nation that could well afford to invest in a steady and sustained way in education.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, moved an amendment welcoming the improvements in the level of education provision since 1979 and endorsing Government policies for raising the standards and effectiveness of the education service within the resources available.

He said Labour still lived in a land of make-believe with no financial constraints. Since 1978-79, the last Labour year, the number of pupils had fallen by about four times as much as spending on schools. The Government had deliberately kept its reduction of spending on education to only a part of the reduction that had occurred in school rolls. Expenditure per pupil in real terms was at record levels.

The Government deliberately planned for the improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio, now at its best ever level and deliberately reduced spending on schools to a significant extent less than the fall in pupils in those schools. There was scope for further redeployment within existing spending.

As had been demonstrated up and down the country, there could be savings in heating, saving of taking surplus places out of use and, although they should go gingerly about this - in cleaning services.

By refusing to go to arbitration, Mr Robert Duna, Under Secretary for Education and Science, assured them that the allocation of places for teacher training was intended to secure an increase in the numbers devoted to religious education.

He had to acknowledge that some authorities had sought efficiency

Fixed term appointments would also enable him to promote young teachers, not being saddled with them for life.

Sir Keith Joseph: Fixed term appointments, be they head teachers or teachers, are within the power of local education authorities to grant if they so decide. There are arguments in both directions. I do not think that action is needed by me.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C): Head teachers are no different to anyone else in any other profession. They are individuals who will sometimes through no fault of their own cease to be able to perform their duties satisfactorily. There should be ways of removing them.

Sir Keith Joseph: If only there were a way of assessing for all teachers, including head teachers, the country, the pupils and the teachers' work of their own free will. That is what is only on the discussion agenda, but I agree.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Mid Bedfordshire, C): The quality of the head teacher is probably the single most important factor in the quality of the school. For that reason there is support on both sides of the House for fixed terms for head teachers.

Sir Keith Joseph: The head teacher is the nearest thing we have to a magic wand in connection with schools. It does not follow that it should be used to judge whether fixed term contracts for head teachers will be beneficial or not. That is for local authorities.

One or two million trade unionists who did not vote Labour were paying the political levy which financed that party. Among the reasons for this were inertia, ignorance of rights and fear of having to stand out in a crowd, possible victimization and in extreme cases intimidation. In some factories considerable psychological pressure was put on people.

His first reservation about the agreement between the Government and TUC about issuing guidance on the procedures to be followed to ensure that unionists were aware of their contracting out rights was that the TUC had no power to force member unions to obey this agreement. Even if it worked to the degree which the Government hoped it would not deal with the question of principle.

Mr John Townend (Bridlington, C), moving a new clause which was considered with a similar Liberal-SDP new clause dealing with contracting in for making political contributions, said it changed the present position where anyone who did not wish to pay the political levy had to contract out. In practice, paying in to the political levy meant giving financial support to the Labour Party.

The most embarrassing thing of all (he added) is that I have to go into the Government lobby tonight

to vote against the amendment simply because this piece of legislation is vicious.

Dr Michael Clark (Rockford, C) said the system of opting out was not in line with the Conservative philosophy of individual freedom.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mosley Hill, Lab) said the Liberals would support the new measure. The present system distorted the political picture and unfairly benefited one party.

It worked unfairly from the viewpoint of members and offended the concept of the secret ballot.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said the statement of guidance would ensure that the contracting out arrangements worked effectively. If it was honoured it would mean a major improvement and end a lot of abuse.

The Government was prepared to accept the statement in good faith. By this statement the TUC was in effect putting itself on trial. If this agreement was frustrated the Government would not sit back.

Susan Warner and Denise Edmondson, both aged 17, from Wolverhampton, each received £300 compensation for their hurt feelings and £150 for loss of training opportunities. Miss Edmondson received a further £154 for loss of earnings and Miss Warner received £25.

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham ordered a hairdresser, Snips of Wolverhampton, to pay a total of £879 to the girls after the company admitted discrimination and agreed compensation out of court.

Mr Don Calvert, Midland principal officer of the Commission for Racial Equality, who brought the case, said yesterday that in the past the courts had ruled that sponsors of young people on the old Youth Opportunities Scheme did not come under the Race Relations Act. The new regulations changed that.

Mr Tidy, of Rathfarnham, near Dublin, was released after a battle in which a soldier and young police recruit died. He said that the firing started when he was being moved.

Mr Tidy to the court that the whole kidnapping operation was "conducted in almost total silence, in total discipline. There was a minimum of conversation, in whispers, normally, and by the same person. Food was provided regularly."

The trial continues today.

Government talking to Unita about hostages

ANGOLA

The Government was quite happy to speak to anyone if this was required to secure the release of British hostages and was already in touch with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) to try to get the 16 British hostages held in Angola released.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons.

He said the Government's interest in this matter was humanitarian and the Government was not prepared to contemplate its foreign policy being determined on the basis of talks with those who had physical control over British citizens.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, during questions about the 16 hostages, said there would be concern in the House if treating directly with Unita were to encourage further hostage taking, blackmail and further acts of terrorism.

Mr Rifkind said it was unlikely that anything in connection with the British hostages would affect for good or ill the accord reached between South Africa and Angola.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C), who had asked a private member's question about the hostages, asked Mr Rifkind to make clear that the Government supported withdrawal of all foreign troops from Angola, including Cubans and East Germans.

Mr Rifkind said it was for the Angolan people to decide their future and that withdrawal of all foreign troops would help matters in Angola. He hoped peace would come soon. The civil war between Unita and the Angolan Government was an internal affair.

able to find extra money for teachers.

Sir Keith Joseph: If anyone in the country pays any attention to the rubbish Mr Skinner speaks in this House they will be foolish.

Until a new pay system becomes competitive against what means lower unit labour costs and our goods and services produced at prices that consumers here and abroad find acceptable, only then will we get full employment.

Mr Martin Flanagan (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): Ten years ago the Houghton Committee reported that teachers' pay had eroded and needed a 30 per cent increase to try to catch up.

Does he not realize that the erosion of teachers' pay has put them back where they were 10 years ago. They have lost 30 per cent in the last few years?

Sir Keith Joseph: On the contrary, Houghton depended on comparability. That was one of the principles which led to our lack of competitiveness and the inflation from which the unemployment of today was caused.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education: Does he believe that the best way to motivate teachers - something he thinks is important - is by ensuring they get a cut in real pay?

Sir Keith Joseph: What he does not take on board is that pay in an effective society reflects supply and demand. Teachers are not leaving the profession in large numbers on pay grounds and very good candidates are coming forward at present pay and conditions.

The Video Bill gets second reading

The Video Recordings Bill, which sets up an independent body to issue licences to video and establishes an authority with power to deny certificates to some video altogether, was read a second time in the House of Lords after about 30 peers had expressed their support or opposition to the measure in a long debate.

The Bill, sponsored by Mr Graham Gifford (Luton South, C), has passed the Commons with Government support.

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said the Government had been pleased to give the Bill full support and assistance. The measure was not disproportionate to the evil it sought to eradicate.

Video was not the same as film and if the British Board of Film Classification, which had given the classification authority it recognized that this would involve a change of rule.

Kinnoch pressed to urge NUM ballot

COAL DISPUTE

The miners should have a chance to express their views on their right to go to their places of work and earn a decent living, Mr Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons. Earlier she had expressed the hope that Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, might also support a national ballot by the NUM.

Mr Thatcher was replying to Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Llifford, C) who said: Mr Arthur Scargill is a confessed Marxist surrounded by Communist aides and advisors and, much more serious, support for him is coming from the Kremlin. (Labour laughter.)

The Prime Minister: I am concerned that miners should have a chance to express their views on the right to go to their place of work and earn a decent living. I hope that they will consider the case on its merits, first because they have a reasonable pay offer which will keep miners' pay 27 per cent above the average; second because of the Government's outstanding record on supporting investment in the coal industry; and third because it has been reasonable in providing good amounts for early retirement and arranged, particularly good special redundancy sums for those who have to leave their jobs.

That amounts to a vote of confidence in present miners and the future of the industry in which they work.

Mr Richard Hickmet (Glanford and

Scunthorpe, C) said: The steel workers in my constituency in Scunthorpe use 3.6m tonnes of coal per annum, 1.8m tonnes of which come from Yorkshire pits.

As a direct consequence of the action initiated by Arthur Scargill that plant is faced with closure with the possible loss of 10,000 jobs. As a direct result of that 11 pits in Yorkshire, six of which are in Yorkshire, may also close with the loss of perhaps a further 15,000 jobs. Is that not a disgrace and should there not be a national ballot of the NUM?

Mr Thatcher: Scunthorpe has made strenuous efforts to improve its performance and indeed has been awarded the award of the year. It is not a disgrace and should there not be a national ballot of the NUM?

I agree most people in the mining industry would wish to have a full national ballot. I hope that will be supported by Labour MPs.

Mr Michael Lord (Central Suffolk, C): One inescapable responsibility of a Leader of the Opposition

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) must ask the Prime Minister a question, not one of the Leader of the Opposition through her and me.

Mr Lord: Is it not her opinion that the Leader of the Opposition ...

The Speaker: It must be much more sophisticated than that. (Laughter.)

Mr Lord: Is it not the Leader of the Opposition asked for a national ballot on the miners' strike?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not answer for the Leader of the Opposition but I live in hopes that he may support such a proposition.

Shield and security

NATO

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Nato treaty tomorrow (Wednesday) gave the Prime Minister, during questions, the opportunity to pay tribute to its value as a shield and security for the United Kingdom.

Sir Peter Baker (Blackpool, South, C) pointed out that tomorrow was the thirty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the treaty by Ernest Bevin, the Labour Foreign Secretary, and invited Mrs Thatcher to pay tribute to the success of the alliance in keeping the peace by a policy of deterrence and multilateral disarmament.

The Prime Minister: Yes, Nato is our shield and security. It is vital that the organization continues and

I pay tribute to its function of nuclear deterrence.

It is the wish of all of us to try to secure multilateral disarmament. The original North Atlantic treaty document setting up Nato is to be on display for the first time in Europe at an exhibition at the Royal United Services Institute. Mrs Thatcher said later in a written reply.

She said that the theme of the exhibition would be "35 years of peace in Nato" and would be open to the public on April 6, 7 and 9 and then tour the country for the remainder of the year.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): London Regional Transport Bill, further progress on report stage. Lords (2.30): Debate on interest rates.

Inspectors criticize secondary schools for spoon-feeding

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Secondary school teaching is criticised by the school inspectors (HMI) in their review of the first six months of making public their reports on schools. There is too much spoon-feeding and too much direction by teachers, they say.

That means that pupils are not involved enough in their learning and are not being challenged enough. Pupils are not achieving their full potential.

The inspectors make the

same criticism of primary schools and sixth forms, although they say there is more criticism of primaries in particular subjects.

They say the general quality of work at sixth-form level is high but add: "Spoon-feeding and over-directive teaching are still too common and as a consequence able students may fail to reveal or discover their full potential, especially when taught in these ways in very small groups."

Joseph backs volunteers

By Nick Wood, The Times Educational Supplement

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, endorsed yesterday a growing trend towards moving children out of the classroom and into voluntary work in nurseries, hospitals and old people's homes.

He said that such moves were in tune with the Government's objective of making school "a little more relevant to life as it is lived outside the school".

Sir Keith was speaking at the launch in London of a report by Community Service Volunteers,

which summarizes the Government-backed organization's involvement with schools.

He told teachers and children present that he was impressed to learn that young people were prepared also to give up their own time to do community work.

Later, he said that community work was one way in which teachers, if they thought fit, could enrich the lives of their pupils.

Sir Keith was speaking at the launch in London of a report by Community Service Volunteers,

The review of the first 100 reports published last year under the open government policy of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, identifies three needs - more and better training for teachers during their careers, agreement in schools on the curriculum and how subjects are tied together.

The inspectors report that in today's secondary schools the less able in the second and third years may drop modern language and the most able may start a second language occasionally Latin.

Banding and setting are more common as pupils move up the school. In the fourth and fifth years "basic" subjects - English, mathematics, physical education, religious education and careers - are taught to all, with 60 per cent of the time given to about six other subjects chosen from "option blocks".

Almost all pupils take at least one science up to the age of 16.

Education Observed (free from Publications Despatch Centre, Department of Education and Science, Honey Pot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex).

She is booked in for an eight-week stay, but the work may take longer. It is not yet



Captain Nicholas Hill-Norton, RN, captain of HMS Invincible, on the aircraft carrier's flight deck with Mr David Johnston, production director at Devonport Dockyard.

The Invincible arrived at Devonport yesterday for repairs to its faulty propeller shaft which cut short her recent Far East cruise.

She is booked in for an eight-week stay, but the work may take longer. It is not yet

Invincible docks for repairs

known why the port shaft vibrates noisily when the ship goes faster than 20 knots. Mr Johnston said: "We have no experience of this problem in a ship of Invincible's size, so we are having to start from scratch."

Captain Hill-Norton said: "Invincible is a very important part of the Navy and it is vital that she is working at full capacity. This is a serious problem; we would not have cut short our cruise otherwise."

Two YTS girls win race case

Two teenage girls have been awarded compensation against a hairdresser because they were racially discriminated against on a Youth Training Scheme, in the first case under new regulations designed to stop employers favouring young whites.

Mr Don Calvert, Midland principal officer of the Commission for Racial Equality, who brought the case, said yesterday that in the past the courts had ruled that sponsors of young people on the old Youth Opportunities Scheme did not come under the Race Relations Act. The new regulations changed that.

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Mr Tidy, of Rathfarnham, near Dublin, was released after a battle in which a soldier and young police recruit died. He said that the firing started when he was being moved.

Mr Tidy to the court that the whole kidnapping operation was "conducted in almost total silence, in total discipline. There was a minimum of conversation, in whispers, normally, and by the same person. Food was provided regularly."

The trial continues today.

Kidnap man tells of chain ordeal

Mr Donald Tidy, a chain store executive, who was kidnapped in the Irish Republic last November, told the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday how he was kept chained and hooded day and night in a woodland hideout.

He said that he was allowed to remove the hood only when he washed, and if the weather was fine he was tethered to a tree, still hooded.

Charles Gilheany, aged 36, and John Curran, aged 58, both farmers, from Ballinamona, co Lestrin, deny falsely imprisoning Mr Tidy between November 23 and December 17 last year.

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Falklands new constitution expected for next year's poll

By Rodney Cowtan

A new constitution for the Falkland Islands is being drawn up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Elements of the constitution are contained at present in various documents such as Orders in Council, Letters Patent, and Royal Instructions, which have been extensively amended over the years.

The new constitution is expected to be essentially a tidying-up, a pulling together of elements from all the documents. It will, however, include constitutional changes based on the recommendations of a Falkland Islands select committee, published last July.

Those recommendations were discussed by Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, when she visited the Falklands in January. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is understood to have largely accepted the recommendations, though there are several points which it questions.

The Falklands Government is headed by the Civil Commissioner, now Sir Rex Hunt, who is the Crown's personal representative. There is also a Military Commissioner, Major-General Keith Spacie, who is responsible for defence and internal security.

The Civil Commissioner is advised by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

The select committee said its recommendations were intended to enable the Executive Council's elected members to exercise more influence on the islands' government and to make those elected members responsible to the Legislative Council.

The committee recommended that the number of elected members of the Legislative Council should be increased from six to eight, and that two ex-officio members should cease to have a vote on the council.

The Legislative Council should elect three of its members to the Executive Council, an increase of one. The practice of having two nominated members on the Executive Council should be ended, and, as on the Legislative Council, the ex-officio members should have no vote.

The committee made no reference to the roles of the Civil Commissioner who sits as president of the Legislative Council and chairman of the Executive Council, or the Military Commissioner, who is a non-voting member of both councils.

Thatcher's Gaideris, page 12

Guns for summit guards due soon

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard's firearms specialists expected to take delivery soon of the first of the sub-machineguns being issued to guards during the June economic summit.

Up to a dozen Heckley and Koch MP5K weapons are on order from West Germany. They cost £400 to £500 apiece and are considered the most expensive sophisticated sub-machineguns available.

The officers being trained to use them are expected to come from the Special Branch, which normally protects visiting politicians.

Other candidates for the weapons may include members of Scotland Yard's D.I.I. firearms branch and other uniformed officers trained in specialist rifles and marksmanship.

The Metropolitan Police training camp in Essex is likely to be used for training.

The courses are expected to include marksmanship with the guns, which have a firing rate of 900 rounds a minute, instructions on stripping them down and tactics lessons.

Since Mr Steven Waldorf's shooting in a police operation last year all officers using weapons have been given cards listing the circumstances in which they can open fire. D.I.I. officers are likely to consider whether rules should be added to apply to the sub-machineguns.



Patients in the picture

Staff nurse Mrs Theresa Carne watching over patients at the 30-bed Royal Infirmary, Plymouth, through a television camera (Nicholas Timmins writes). The £10,500 system was bought for night security, to remove the need for a porter on night security. For a marginal extra cost, cameras were also installed in the wards. Mr Jeremy Taylor, an administrator at the hospital, says it saves no nursing staff but allows them "to spend more time at the bedside

with patients who need them rather than walking corridors. We have had no reactions from patients that "someone is spying on me," he said. "Quite the reverse. Patients like to know they are being watched over." With the saving in porters the system will pay for itself in a couple of years, he said, and Plymouth is now considering installing it in other hospitals.

(Photograph: Ted Ditchburn)

Data Bill may flood courts with exam appeals, MP says

By Richard Evans

The High Court could be flooded with appeals from students against their examination results if proposals in the Data Protection Bill were enacted, a Conservative MP said yesterday.

Unless it is changed, the Bill will give students at schools, colleges, and universities the right to see personal information held on computers relating to the way teachers and lecturers have marked their examination papers and the results awarded.

Mr Edward Taylor, MP for Southend, East, told the committee examining the Bill that with students' education and prospects at stake, such provisions would lead to disruption and disputes "which will take up a great deal of valuable time on the part of busy people and deflect them from more important work."

Mr Taylor proposed that personal information relating to marks, scores, or other assessment material held by educational establishments and examining boards should be kept confidential.

He said that if students were able to see details, assessments, and comments of lecturers and examination markers "you are going to start a genuine flood of all kinds of appeals and High Court actions."

There was often a difference between initial raw results and the final mark awarded to a student as lecturers used their

discretion and collective wisdom "sensibly and fairly". The Bill's proposals for disclosure would threaten such a system.

Mr Taylor, who claimed that his proposal was, with the exception of the National Union of Students, widely supported, said that the Bill's provisions would disrupt the examination process and "nobody is going to be better off".

However, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley North, and an Opposition spokesman on the committee, said that Mr Taylor's proposal was "totally unacceptable and unnecessary".

He said students should have the right to know their initial marks as well as final marks and the method employed to reach a final assessment.

"They have the right to know assessment was arrived at. At the moment that process is shrouded in mystery and it does not need to be. It is shrouded in mystery because it protects the incompetent examiner."

Mr Kilroy-Silk, a former university lecturer, said that competent and conscientious examiners had nothing to fear from the Bill's provisions.

"Openness is important. It would benefit the student enormously to have all the information and it would benefit the staff because it would not any longer protect the incompetent or lazy."

10 arrests as peace camp awaits bailiffs

By Pat Healy

Ten women nuclear arms protesters were arrested yesterday during a blockade of one of the gates of Greenham Common air base. They were charged with obstruction and released on bail.

Their action emphasized the determination of Greenham women to continue their vigil against cruise missiles despite the threat of eviction. At the main gate evictions have been postponed because of the large numbers of women at the original peace camp.



Miss Arrowsmith, among the new arrivals.

Yesterday more women arrived to support the 30 permanently living there. They included Miss Pat Arrowsmith, the veteran campaigner.

Miss Arrowsmith pointed to a placard proclaiming "Greenham women are everywhere" and said: "We have come to the conclusion that for the moment the place for Greenham women is at Greenham Common."

The large numbers of women arriving at Greenham in the past few days have encouraged them to reoccupy land owned by Newbury District Council from which they were evicted.

They have erected tents and shelters and planted a flower and vegetable garden.

The garden is tended by Ms Clare Nord, aged 52, a Texan grandmother who said she was fully employed living at Greenham and helping to feed the women.

There was no attempt to evict them yesterday, although their departure was anticipated by a light aircraft displaying a banner reading: "Ratepayers say: Good riddance, girls."

The women displayed a placard reading: "Yes we will be removed - repeatedly."

Wildlife fund to work with farmers

The new chairman of the World Wildlife Fund's British organization promised yesterday more cooperation between conservationists and farmers, a stronger line in influencing the law affecting the countryside.

Mr Timothy Walker, a City of London businessman, farmer, and breeder of endangered wild animals, said at a press conference: "I do not think the right way for conservationists to approach the farming world is with a stick."

Mr Walker, aged 42, takes over the World Wildlife Fund-UK from Sir Arthur Norman, who is to set up a new institute, the United Kingdom Centre for Economic and Environmental Development.

Bystanders hurt as horses shy during filming

Five people were taken to hospital yesterday after four coach horses used in filming a television programme featuring Sir Harry Secombe shied and bolted into crowds lining the pavements in the centre of Wimborne in Dorset.

One boy, Nathan Fairfax, aged two, was trapped in his pushchair and dragged along the road by the horses. His mother, Mrs Jackie Fairfax, of Wimborne, dived under the animals' hooves to snatch him to safety.

Five people were taken to Poole General Hospital. The horses' owner, Mr Robert Goodey, who was driving the coach, said he believed they were frightened by a glowing shop sign.

Versatile kestrels make a killing in the city

By Kenneth Gosling

The kestrel is back in town, establishing itself in the artificial cliffs formed by old buildings and returning to newer office blocks in London, including Britannic House, the British Petroleum headquarters.

Britain's most common bird of prey is never short of suitable nesting places in the capital nor of food. It is there any lack of food. It preys on house sparrows in town and in the country it feeds on such small mammals as voles, shrews and mice.

The future of the kestrel, with its loud "kee-kee" call, seems assured. According to recent figures published by the British Trust for Ornithology, there are 70,000 pairs in Britain, close to

saturation level. Next comes the sparrowhawk, with 20,000 pairs, and buzzards, 12,000 pairs.

Mr Ian Dawson, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says the first recorded London sighting for half a century or more was in 1931. Five or six pairs appeared after the war, but there was a dip in the early 1960s. The revival began in 1972 when 10 pairs were sighted.

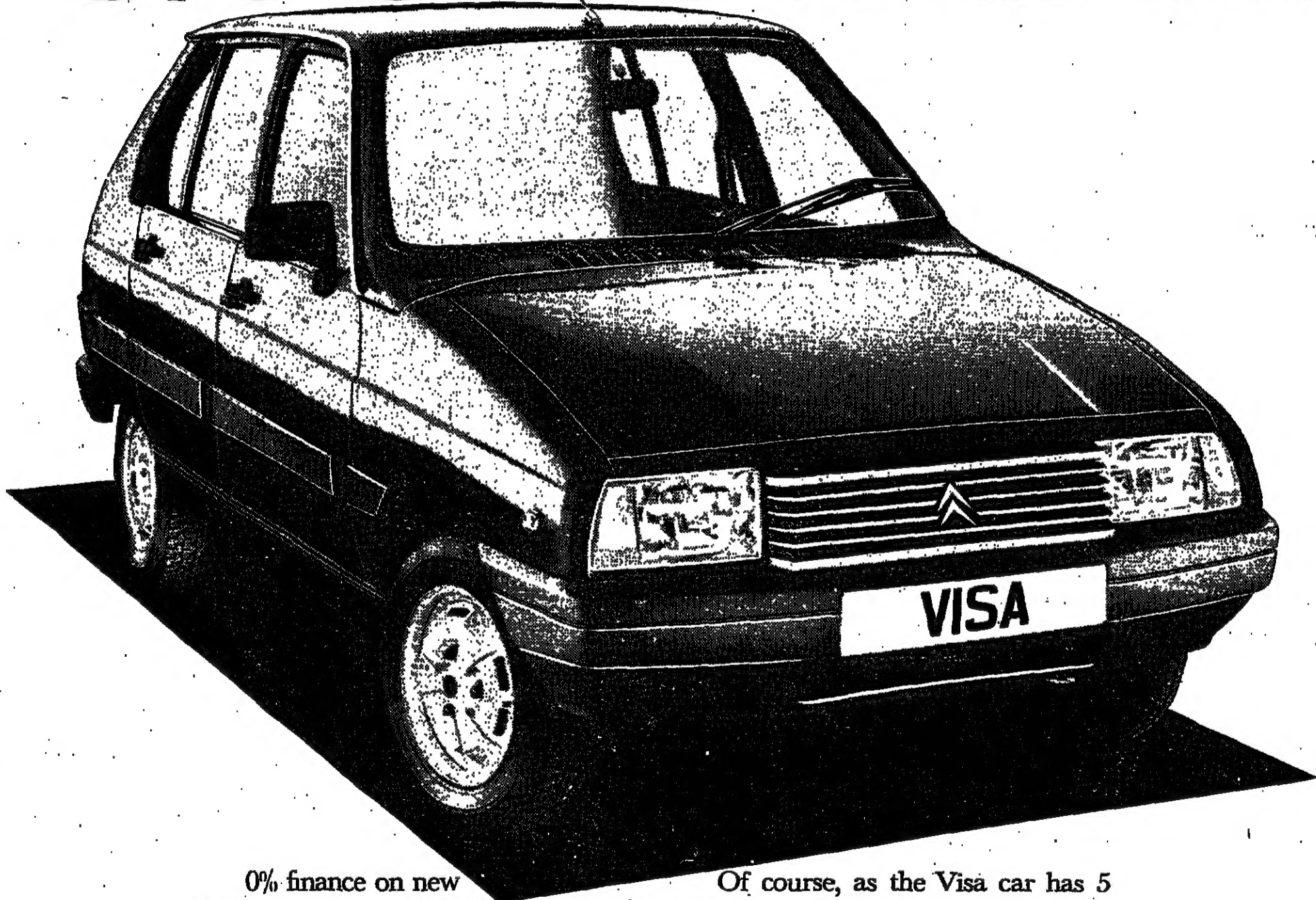
Egg-laying begins next month. Some two or three young usually hatch out from clutches of four or five eggs. "It all depends on the abundance of prey available", Mr Dawson says.

BIRDS OF PREY RESIDENT IN BRITAIN

Species	Approximate number of pairs (and trend)	Limiting factors	Approximate % of potential range occupied
Kestrel	70,000 (stable)	At capacity level	100
Sparrowhawk	20,000 (expanding)	Pesticides	80
Buzzard	12,000 (expanding)	Pesticides	80
Peregrine	800 (increasing)	Pesticides	80
Hen Harrier	600 (fluctuating)	Pesticides	80
Golden Eagle	400-500 (increasing)	Pesticides?	80
Merk	300-400 (declining)	Pesticides	5
Goshawk	70 (increasing)	Pesticides	5
Red Kite	40 (increasing)	Pesticides	20
Osprey	30 (increasing)	Pesticides	20
Mourning Dove	25 (increasing)	Pesticides	<5
White-tailed Eagle	2+ (increasing)	Pesticides	<5

*Estimated for a time
Source: British Trust for Ornithology News, March 1984

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Marchais will not pull out of coalition despite yawning gulf

From Diana Geddes, Paris

In his strongest attack on the Government to date, M Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, made clear during an hour-and-a-half television interview last night that there was little, if anything, in the Government's current policies with which the party was any longer in agreement. But he said there was no question of the Communists leaving the Government.

While the Socialist reforms introduced by the Government in its first 18 months in office were even more important than those introduced under the Popular Front or at the Liberation after the war, the Government's overall record must now be deemed negative, M Marchais said.

Its present policies were in direct opposition to the undertakings agreed between the Socialists and the Communists in their June 1981 pact. That

mistaken in the solutions we proposed. Basically, there is nothing else that we can do other than that which has been done for years and years," M Marchais said, clearly hinting that M Mitterrand's Policies were now no different from those of his predecessor, M Giscard d'Estaing.

The Communist Party did not accept that there was no alternative policy (as M Mitterrand has said). It intended to stick to its promises, and to remain in the Government to fight for those policies. It would not "give a present to the right" by leaving the Government, although that was clearly the easier course to take and one that was being advocated by a number of Communists. But they were in a minority, and they were wrong.

It is not only the Government's economic and industrial policies on which there is fundamental disagreement, as M Marchais made clear. The Communists are also against the enlargement of the EEC, against the deployment of Nato missiles in Europe, for the integration of private schools into single non-sectarian state system (which the Government has abandoned); and against the cuts in unemployment benefit which have just been introduced.

So M Marchais has thrown down the gauntlet, but President Mitterrand is expected to take it up and throw it right back at his press conference today. There appears to be no question of the Government's changing its policies. It intends to ride out the storm that it has long seen coming. M Mitterrand is one of those politicians who seem to thrive under a challenge.

In this sparring game, it is the Communists who have their backs against the wall. If they leave the Government the Socialists, who have an absolute majority in Parliament, will be able to continue to govern without them, while the Communists will be left out in the cold, saddled with the opprobrium of having once again broken the Union of the Left and stripped of their power to place their own men in key positions in their four Government ministries.

Their electoral support, which fell to 16 per cent at the time of the presidential elections in 1981, after running at an average of more than 20 per cent over the previous decade, has now dropped even further to around 12 per cent (according to the latest opinion polls). Being inside the Government does not seem to have helped, but would it be any easier outside? That is the question they are now pondering.

Three killed by Durban car bomb

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Three people were killed and 16 injured yesterday in a car bomb explosion in Durban - South Africa's major port. And last night the Government claimed that the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) was responsible.

If this is the case, the blast is a vicious reminder to South Africans that, despite the peace pact signed last month with neighbouring Mozambique, black nationalist guerrilla forces are still active.

Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, said in Cape Town: "Although nobody has claimed responsibility I have no doubt that the ANC is responsible for this atrocity."

The bomb was hidden in a Japanese car parked close to the entrance to Durban docks. It went off at 7.40 am at the peak of the morning rush hour. A packed schoolbus had passed the spot shortly before.

A number of cars were shattered by shrapnel, and office buildings on the broad thoroughfare had windows shattered. Only the fact that the car was parked on the other side of the road, next to parkland, prevented heavier casualties.

Two of the people killed were blacks and there was speculation last night that they were driving towards the docks with the bomb inside the car when it exploded. The third person killed was a white woman on her way to work.

The ANC has only used a car bomb once before in South Africa. This was last year, when it set off a bomb outside the Air Force headquarters in Pretoria which killed 19 people and injured more than 200.

Usually ANC attacks are aimed at strategic targets which do not involve heavy casualties, such as petrol dumps, electrical sub-stations and railway signals. However, a show of force by the ANC has been expected since the Government signed its peace pact. This has denied the ANC its most convenient base.

Wall Street Journal washes linen in public

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

In a remarkably frank exposé, *The Wall Street Journal*, America's largest newspaper and one of the world's most respected, is publishing details of an insider trading scandal involving one of its own reporters.

The journalist, and his male lover, are among a number of people, including stockbrokers, involved in a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation into trading rings which profited from insider information on Wall Street.

The newspaper says that the reporter had money worries. He felt he was underpaid, and his boyfriend had high medical bills and was a self-described free-spender.

In an editorial yesterday the *Journal* said: "As part of our business we often find it necessary to expose others in general, and American business in particular. So we are doubly embarrassed to be caught with our own scandal. We are washing our dirty linen in public."

The Wall Street Journal.

circulation two million, is owned by Dow Jones and Company and has a high reputation for integrity, which makes the scandal especially galling.

The *Journalist* at the centre of the scandal is Mr Foster Nims, aged 35, who worked on the highly-sensitive and widely-read "Heard on the Street" column. Mr Nims was dismissed last week after admitting that he leaked advance information about the content of the column.

The newspaper said: "The

unravelling of the clues so far suggests that a number of trading rings may have acquired advance knowledge of "Heard on the Street" columns. Some of these rings may have reaped substantial illicit profits."

Investigators want to know if Mr Nims published articles designed to help people he knew well, something Mr Nims denies.

The newspaper says that Mr David Carpenter, aged 34, who is Mr Nims' room-mate and lover, owned stock in a company about which Mr

Nims wrote favourable articles.

The scandal has left the newspaper with what its managing editor calls "a collective sense of shock and betrayal".

In its editorial yesterday the *Journal* said there were few more serious breaches of trust than leaking market-sensitive information. It added that credibility could not be long sustained if readers came to believe that articles were tainted. The SEC investigation, it said, was "helpful to us in clearing our own skirts".

Indian goes into orbit in Soviet spacecraft

From Richard Owen, Moscow

In a sheet of orange flame the gleaming white spacecraft carrying India's first cosmonaut lifted into the sky above Soviet Central Asia one minute late at 5.09 pm yesterday. The launch was watched by senior Soviet and Indian officials, including Mr Rameswami Venkataraman, the Indian Defence Minister.

Unusually, the launch was broadcast live on Soviet television, which also showed the Indian crew member, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, aged 35, inside the Soyuz T11 capsule alongside two Soviet cosmonauts. Soviet space shots are not normally revealed until after the launch, in case something goes wrong.

Squadron Leader Sharma, who has been in training for two years at Russia's "Star City", is the cosmonaut-researcher on the Soyuz T11 mission commanded by Colonel Yuri Malyshev, aged 43, and crewed by Flight-Engineer Gennady Strekalov, aged 44.

The spacecraft will dock today at 3.35 pm BST with the orbiting space station Salyut 7, joining three Soviet cosmonauts who have been on board the station since February. The Soviet-Indian crew will spend a week on Salyut 7, conducting experiments before returning to earth on April 11.



All systems go: Malyshev Sharma (centre) and Strekalov just before the first Soviet-Indian space mission.

Last November, Soviet space officials admitted that a two-man crew on board the space station had been at risk when their craft suffered a fuel leak. However, the two cosmonauts returned to Earth safely. Two months previously a Soyuz mission was abandoned when the launch rocket exploded.

However, officials at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan anticipated no problems yesterday, and the latest flight has been presented in the Soviet media as a triumph in Soviet technology and "Indo-Soviet cooperation".

Tass said yesterday that the flight was continuing normally. Mr Venkataraman said as he

watched the dart-shaped spacecraft disappear that he would never forget the launch and that he hoped cooperation during the mission would be as successful.

Squadron Leader Sharma said before the launch that he would be teaching his fellow cosmonauts yoga exercises to alleviate problems arising from weightlessness. He is also taking a supply of mangoes to enliven the Salyut 7 diet, giving rise to jokes about cosmic curry.

Most of Russia's joint ventures in space involve East European cosmonauts under the "Interkosmos" programme, although a French cosmonaut joined a Soyuz team in 1982. The Soviet-Indian mission

will photograph the Earth's surface, concentrating on Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent to collect agricultural, geological and meteorological data for use in food and resources programmes.

Squadron Leader Sharma and his understudy, Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra, delighted Soviet viewers by speaking good Russian learnt during the two years of preparation. They praised Lenin and Gagarin, and said Russia and India were two great countries united in their desire for peace.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, is to speak to Squadron Leader Sharma in a direct link-up from Delhi on Saturday.

Professor U. R. Rao, the director of Indian space research, said Russia and India had been cooperating in space for more than 30 years, including Soviet launching of Indian satellites.

In a statement read on board the spacecraft, Squadron Leader Sharma said his flight was a "special honour" for India, a sign of the "eternal friendship" between Moscow and Delhi.

Tass quoted his father, Mr Vivendranath Sharma, as saying the family was "joyful and proud", and said there was a festive atmosphere at St George's School in Hyderabad, where his son had studied.

Argentines burn Big Ben

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Youths marching to commemorate the second anniversary of Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands set fire to a replica of Big Ben and pulled down a statue of George Canning, the nineteenth century British foreign secretary and prime minister.

Sixteen marchers were arrested on Monday night after a demonstration by the Malvinas War Veterans' Centre turned into a mêlée involving various political groups, firemen and the police. The incident spoilt

the Government's plan to mark the anniversary with a quiet memorial service to servicemen killed in the conflict.

About 100 of the nearly 10,000 youths who took part in the march began the violence when they reached a square, the name of which was changed from Plaza Britannia to Air Force Plaza after the conflict.

The marchers broke down the doors of the "Englishmen's clock-tower", a half-size copy of Big Ben donated by the British community in Argentina in 1910, and set fire to the lift inside. When firemen tried to

put out the blaze, they were stoned by demonstrators. Damage to the base of the tower was said to be serious.

The clock itself, which showed the correct time yesterday morning, was apparently unaffected.

Later, an ultra-nationalist group stormed a local radio station and interrupted the broadcast of a programme marking the anniversary of the invasion, yelling and shouting at the broadcaster while he was on the air.

Leading article, page 13

Fifth military chief goes in Honduras

From Tegucigalpa (AP)

General Marco Antonio Rosales Abella, the army inspector general in Honduras, has resigned. He is the fifth top military officer to step down in a shake-up that included removal of the armed forces commander.

A brief announcement by the President's press office said Rosales Abella had quit but no details were given.

Senior Edgardo Paz Barmica, the Foreign Minister, said later that the changes had established a separation between political matters and military affairs.

General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, who as armed forces commander-in-chief had been considered the most powerful man in Honduras, was dismissed at the weekend and flew to Costa Rica. The removal of two generals and a colonel from their top posts followed.

Government sources, who spoke on condition that they were not identified, said the shake-up was ordered by the armed forces supreme council. The three other officers removed were General Jose Bueso Rosa, the Chief of Staff; Colonel Daniel Bali Castillo, Commander of state Security Forces; and General Ruben Montoya, the Naval Commander.

Labour has doubts about EMS

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

The Labour Party remains sceptical about the value of the European Monetary system, Dr Conough McDonald, MP for Thurrock told a surprised but sympathetic conference of European socialists in Luxembourg yesterday.

Dr McDonald, one of the party's leading speakers on economic affairs, said that joining the EMS would not be a priority of the next Labour Government. Although monetary stability was an important factor in economic recovery, it was not enough on its own.

In the Labour Party's view the introduction of the EMS had been inflationary. Conference was no good if it did was transmit deflation across frontiers.

France, she said, had suffered the consequences of trying to abide within the strait jacket of the EMS. Exchange rate stability must not be an end in itself.

Labour could not expect to come to power until 1988. By then Britain's revenue from oil would have peaked. This coupled to the effect of labour policies would be bringing down the value of the pound. After a period of adjustment and if the pound was at a low enough rate it might be possible to think of joining the EMS, but this would only be if it came in along with job creation policies. "The key for us is expansion," she said.

The Labour Party, however, had no commitment to monetary union and was, in fact, wholly opposed to such an idea. Mr Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, told the conference that France had decided to remain inside the EMS for the sake of Europe.

Progress was always combined with risks, he said. In the short term it might have been better to have left the system. The conference, held in preparation for the European elections, heard many speakers praising the system and calling for wider use of the European Currency Unit (ECU) as an international reserve currency to challenge the power of the dollar.

Aftermath of Jerusalem bombing

Palestinians claim to hold Israeli hostage

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

In a dingy office in the suburbs of Damascus, the pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine yesterday made the astonishing claim that they had for a year been secretly holding an Israeli soldier prisoner, and would release him only if the Israelis freed the three Palestinians responsible for Monday's attack in Jerusalem that left almost 50 civilians wounded.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli Army refused yesterday to confirm the man's status. Reliable sources claimed, however, that he had deserted from the Army about a year ago.

A senior official of the DFLP, which is still part of Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization, handed to *The Times* a photocopy of the Israeli soldier's military papers, alleging that the man, whom he identified as Staff-Sergeant Samir Assad, was in good health, and being held "in a very safe place" either in Syria or Lebanon.

He said that the DFLP would be informing the Red Cross of the prisoner's existence but would not free him unless the Israelis handed over the Palestinians involved in Monday's shooting, together with a number of other prisoners in Israeli jails, including two whom he said had been in prison for at least 16 years.

He named them as Ody Adiv, an Israeli Jew whom he said was a member of the DFLP, and a man whom he identified as Omar Kassem.

Mr Jamil Hilal, the head of "international relations" in the DFLP's central committee, refused me permission to see the Israeli. When I asked him to prove that Staff-Sergeant Assad, whom he said was an Israeli Druze soldier, was still alive, he replied: "It would be madness for us to demand the release of prisoners if he was dead."

Instead, he gave me a photocopy of an Israeli passport which carried the photograph of a young man with a beard and moustache, together with a military number, 3353588.

Mr Hilal said that Sergeant Assad had been captured in a

"special operation" last summer between Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon and that the soldier's Galil assault rifle numbered 1303382 was also in the DFLP's possession.

In the early summer of 1983, an Israeli soldier was initially reported to have been kidnapped during an ambush in which three of his colleagues were killed just north of Tyre although Israeli officers at the time firmly denied to *The Times* that any of their men had been abducted. According to Mr Hilal, Sergeant Assad joined the Israeli Army on November 15, 1979, and was born in the north Galilee village of Kfar Beit Jin.

Despite the large number of civilians gunned down in Monday's attack, the DFLP in Damascus showed scarcely any remorse at the casualties. It was given photographs of three men whom the DFLP said carried out the attack and who were identified by *noms de guerre* "Fuad", "Abu Rabieh" and "Carlos", the latter having obviously taken his pseudonym from an even more infamous gunman. All are in their early twenties.

When I questioned Mr Hilal about the Jerusalem attack, he insisted that the three men had been instructed to capture the Minister of Tourism at the end of what he called "King George Street" and that the Romanian Embassy in Damascus had been asked to inform their diplomats in Israel that the DFLP wanted the release of prisoners in Israeli jails. Another DFLP official brought into the office in which we were sitting a torn and battered Israeli tourist map of Jerusalem, labelled "Asir's pictorial map", which is still on sale in the city, and pointed to the picture of the ministry building about 700 yards from a street labelled "George V".

"This was the target," Hilal said. "Our men were to occupy this building, take hostages and then demand the release of the prisoners. We are sorry that civilians were wounded. The aim of the operation was to free our comrades. We are fighting an occupation army, not civilians. All we are seeking is the release of Palestinians in Israeli jails."

Lahad gets Haddad's job

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Major-General Antoine Lahad, who retired from the Lebanese Army last year, is to be inducted today as commander of the Israeli-backed south Lebanese forces, security officials reported. He will take over the militias founded and commanded by the late Major Saad Haddad.

General Lahad, aged 54, will be installed by south Lebanese village leaders, who named him in consultation with the Israelis.

The Israelis put off picking a successor after Haddad died in January because they hoped it would be done by the Lebanese Government in the context of security arrangements agreed on in last year's withdrawal treaty.

The pact, which had envisaged the integration of Haddad's forces as a territorial brigade in the Lebanese regular army, was abrogated by the Beirut authorities.

US soldier wounded in Athens shooting

Athens - A US Army sergeant, shot in his car by masked motorcycle gunmen, managed to save his life by driving into the American air base at Athens airport two miles away, despite bullet wounds in his wrist and lung (Mario Modiano writes).

Master-sergeant Robert Ludd, who is with the US military mission in Greece, was in uniform as he drove yesterday afternoon along the main road south-east of Athens to take the mail to the air base.

After an operation to remove the bullet from his lung, he was said to be in a stable condition and out of danger.

Peking crime cut by half

Peking (Reuters) - The average number of criminal cases in Peking dropped by 58.7 per cent between August and December last year, compared with the previous seven months, according to the Mayor, Mr Chen Xitong.

He said better education in democracy and the legal system had helped to cut crime, a contrast in emphasis to statements by the Public Security Minister, Mr Liu Fuzhi, who said in January that severe punishment was the way to maintain order.

General strike halts Belgium

Brussels - The Belgian Socialist trade unions ordered a general strike yesterday in protest at the Government's latest austerity budget. (Ian Murray writes).

Rail services, mail - and schools, particularly in French-speaking Wallonia, were severely hit or shut down.

Israel strike

Jerusalem (AFP) - Shipping was at a standstill in all Israeli ports as pilots and traffic controllers went on strike without warning, in support of claims for improved retirement pensions.

Border toll

Bangkok (AFP) - Incidents with Vietnamese troops on the Thai border with Cambodia since March 23 have left at least 32 Vietnamese and five Thais dead, according to the Thai authorities.

Turks jailed

Cologne (Reuters) - Ten Turks were given prison sentences of four to four-and-a-half years for occupying the Turkish consulate in Cologne and holding 60 people hostage for 15 hours in November, 1982.

Neo-Nazi trial

Vienna (AP) - Four men received prison terms between 20 months and five years and five others were put on probation at the end of Austria's biggest neo-Nazi trial.

Ono must pay

New York (AP) - A jury here decided that Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, must pay Mr Jack Douglas a record producer and engineer, \$3m (£2.1m) for work he did on the Lennons' record *Double Fantasy*.

Poll postponed

Monrovia (AP) - Liberia's military regime announced that elections have been postponed for nine months until autumn, 1985. The ruling Peoples Redemption Council said more time was needed for a education campaign on the new constitution.

Church bomb

Paris (AP) - A 25-year-old man was seriously injured when a bomb exploded at the entry to a building housing the Church of Scientology here.

School spirit

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Reuters) - Education authorities in Malaysia's Sabah state have called in a witchdoctor to exorcise spirits keeping about 500 secondary school pupils from their classes.

Sausage killing

Wellington (AFP) - Malcolm Francis, aged 35, is standing trial in Napier, New Zealand, on a charge of beating his wife to death with a frozen sausage. He has denied murder.

Computer ring

Boston (AFP) - Leslie Klein, aged 36, a Canadian, has been arrested in connexion with an international high-technology smuggling ring that exported sophisticated computer systems to East Germany and the Soviet Union. The US Attorney's office here announced.

English ban

Jakarta (AP) - The Governor of central Java has banned the use of English names for shops, such as supermarket, beauty salon and shopping centre, in order to "restore national pride to Indonesia".



Ndjamena visitor: M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, reviewing French troops based in Chad.

Kidnapped Britons are in Zambia, guerrilla tells Zimbabwe court

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A Zimbabwean insurgent, accused of playing a leading role in the abduction of two Britons and four other tourists in Matabeleland almost two years ago has claimed in court that they are alive and being held in Zambia.

Gilbert Ngunwenya, aged 42, formerly a member of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zippa guerrilla army, was remanded in Bulawayo magistrates court on Monday facing charges of murdering two Matabeleland farmers and kidnapping the six tourists - Mr Martin Hodgson and Mr John Greenwell both Britons, Mr Brett Baldwin and Mr Kevin Ellis, Americans, and Mr William Butler and Mr

Tony Bagzel, both Australians. He was not asked to plead but made a statement that he had returned to Zimbabwe voluntarily from Zambia to discuss with the Government the return of property confiscated from Mr Nkomo's party in February 1982. He said: "We have the tourists in Zambia. They are still alive. If the Government gives back the property they will be surrendered."

Sources close to the investigation are interested in Mr Ngunwenya's claims but are treating them with some scepticism. They say that in spite of repeated appeals by the tourists' no such evidence has been forthcoming. It is widely believed that they were murdered

Mr Ngunwenya is alleged to have been the commander of 19 insurgents who seized the tourists from a bus on the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls road in July 1982 at the end of an overland trip through Africa.

The gang is said to have placed two trees across the road and bunched six of the male members of the party off into the bush, leaving a note with the bus driver and three women threatening to kill their hostages if the land was not returned. The release was also demanded of Mr Dumiso Dabengwa and Mr Lookout Masuku, the two top men in Zippa, who were then in detention and remain in custody although acquitted on treason and arms charges.

سكزامن الأصل

Soldier killed in Athens noting

A US Army soldier in his car by motorcycle gunmen, gave his life in the American air airport two miles bullet wounds in the lung (Mario S).

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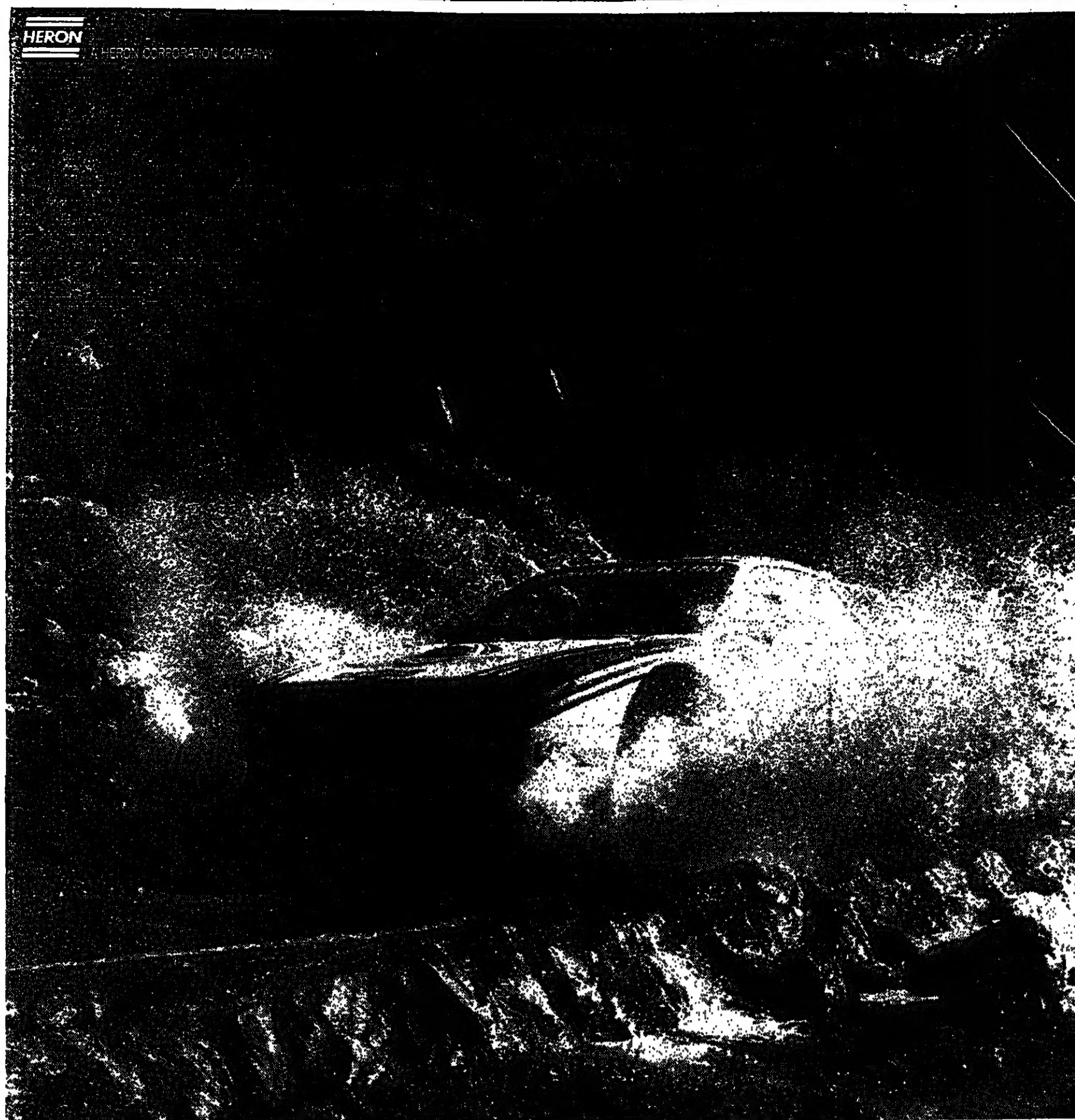
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Reigning World Rally Champions.

Soviet trading with Japan and US declines to Western Europe's benefit

From Theodore Shabad of The New York Times

New York - The Soviet Union, as part of an apparent reorientation of its trade among the leading industrial nations, strengthened its commercial ties with Western Europe last year.

While trade with Western Europe grew by 6.4 per cent in 1983, Soviet economic deals with other industrial countries, notably Japan and the United States, declined by 16 per cent.

This global shift in trading patterns is due in part to continued large Soviet sales of oil and natural gas, growing purchases of modern industrial technology and a decline in imports of grain.

An analysis of trade figures released by Moscow shows that Soviet trade with the industrial democracies last year became increasingly focused on West Germany, Italy and France, the principal Western buyers of Soviet oil and natural gas, as well as the largest Western suppliers of industrial machinery and equipment to the Russians.

The Japanese, by contrast, once Moscow's leading non-communist trade partner, have been falling behind the main Western European states. In 1982, West Germany and Italy had more Soviet business than Japan, and last year the French also moved ahead of the Japanese.

Britain bought much more

The past two years have seen a substantial increase in Soviet export sales to the United Kingdom which amounted to £728m in 1983 up from \$427m in 1982. Soviet imports from Britain were only slightly increased however, with £408m in 1982 increasing to £445m in 1983.

Moscow's trade with three other important non-European trading partners - the United States, Canada and Australia - has involved mainly Soviet grain purchases. A general decline in food imports in 1983 drove down the volume of trade with those three countries.

Soviet foreign trade activity was summarized last month in the economic weekly *Ekonomika* (Moscow), by Vladimir Kiochek, the head of the economic planning department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The shifts in trade appear to be related in part to various curbs on doing business with the Russians that have been imposed by the United States and to Western Europe's continuing interest in exchanging Soviet oil and gas for industrial technology. The decline of

Japan among the Russians partners dates from the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in late 1979, whose adverse impact on trade appears to have been greater among the Japanese than among the Europeans. In 1983, Soviet-Japanese trade was down by 18.5 per cent from the 1982 level.

Meanwhile, the leading West European trade partners increased their imports from the Soviet Union in 1983 - West Germany by 6 per cent, Italy by 8.5 per cent and France by 16.6 per cent. Oil and gas account for 85 to 90 per cent of the value of Soviet exports to these states.

The Soviet union appears to have maintained a high level of oil exports - about 1.3 million to 1.4 million barrels a day - to Western Europe, despite a decline in production.

Soviet imports of industrial technology from the West rose by 43.1 per cent in 1983, according to the *Foreign Trade* magazine.

The shift away from the non-European partners, mainly at their own suppliers, reflected the drop in Soviet grain imports. Trade with the US was down by 75 per cent, with Canada by 6 per cent and with Australia by 20 per cent.

Two-thirds of world's countries use torture

By Richard Dowden

About two thirds of the world's governments have recently tortured or cruelly treated prisoners according to Amnesty International.

In a report published yesterday, the organization says "torture is usually part of the state controlled machinery to suppress dissent, torture itself has a rationale: isolation, humiliation, psychological pressure and physical pain are means to obtain information, to break down the prisoner and to intimidate those close to him or her."

"The torturer may be after something specific like a signature or a confession, a renunciation of beliefs or the denunciation of relatives, colleagues and friends, who may in turn be seized, tortured and, if possible, broken."

The report also includes a country by country record of reported incidents over the past four years.

The methods cited in the report vary from beating the soles of the feet, cells without lights in which prisoners may be held for more than a year, causing drugs, sensory deprivation, electrodes and an apparatus which inserts a heated metal skewer into a bound victim's anus. There are reports of children being tortured in El Salvador and women being tortured in front of their children in Iran.

"Torture most often occurs during the prisoner's first days in custody when visits by family or lawyers are banned - often under laws giving the authorities wide-ranging powers to deal with emergencies," the report says. It suggests that cover-ups and censorship have made a full survey impossible.

The report recommends that two United Nations proposals outlawing torture and cruelty should be adopted by countries as soon as possible. One of the conventions established universal jurisdiction over alleged torturers and the other would give arrested people the right to notify their families.

"Torture in the Eighties" - an Amnesty International report from Harston Book Service, PO Box 87, Oxford, OX1 1JB. Price £5.70 including post and packaging.

Cocaine haul

Miami (AP) - A Canadian sloop carrying 2,200lb of cocaine, with an estimated street value of more than \$200m (£150m) was detained by the US Coast Guard in the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti, and escorted into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Ancient village found

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Remains of a Sabine hill-top village found near Rome are claimed to be the oldest traces of this legendary people so closely involved with early Roman history.

The excavations are being conducted by Dr Alessandro Guidi, of the archaeological superintendency for Lazio.

Glenda Jackson is troubled

see Page 21

Polish activists on trial in Katowice

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Two of Poland's most seasoned fighters for human rights, Mr Kazimierz Switon and Mrs Anna Walentynowicz, are due to stand trial today accused of inciting unrest and resisting arrest during a stormy demonstration last year.

Both dissidents have been active in the struggle for union rights for more than a decade. Mr Switon was a founder of the Silesian free trades unions and an early Solidarity organizer in Poland's coal mining region. Miss Walentynowicz was a crane driver in the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk and her dismissal helped to spark off the 1980 strikes that in turn led to the establishment of Solidarity.

A third defendant, a Miss Tomaszewska, is also due to face trial with the others in Katowice today. All three are said to be ill and the court may be forced to postpone the trial until they recover.

To mark the official miners' holiday, St Barbara's Day, a group of Gdansk shipyard workers led by Miss Walentynowicz tried to lay a plaque near the Wujek mine commemorating the workers shot by police two years earlier in December 1981. The group joined up with local Silesian activists led by Mr Switon but were prevented by riot police from getting near the perimeter fence. Angry clashes ensued.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government's spokesman, said yesterday that if the trial goes ahead, it will last three days. The fact of the trial and the verdict - which could mean jail sentences

of three years for the accused - will be an important pointer in the rather enigmatic law-and-order policy of the Jaruzelski Government.

After a loudly trumpeted amnesty under which many hundreds of political prisoners were either released or had their sentences reduced, the past two months have seen an intense period of police activity.

According to official figures there are 427 people in prison for political offences, only 58 of whom are serving jail terms. The rest are under various forms of investigative arrest. Some lawyers believe that the apparent reluctance to bring political prisoners to trial but the apparent zeal in arresting them may be a sign that a new amnesty is planned in July.

Apart from the 427 in jail, there are many Poles, including a prominent lawyer and a number of priests, who have been charged with political offences but who have been allowed to stay at home.

Clandestine bulletins over the past week have catalogued police searches in several dozens of apartments and have reported that the security service has been interrogating many people including school pupils suspected of organizing small-scale political protests.

Mr Urban confirmed yesterday that a schoolboy had been arrested in Gdansk for belonging to an inter-school young Solidarity co-ordinating committee, a young and apparently small underground cell.



Proud family: Mrs Sun Guiling (left), a chicken farmer, and her family pose with their newly-acquired Toyota in Peking. Under Chinese policy, people can now own cars for business.

Corfu court backs Rothschild's land action

From Mario Modiano

In a move likely to cheer up about 1,000 Britons who own property in Corfu, a local court yesterday left Mr Jacob Rothschild, the banker, in possession of his 150-acre estate by annulling a Greek action by the state to retrieve the land.

The ruling was a setback for the Greek Government, which has been making Greek legal history by invoking EEC law to ask the court to confirm his ownership.

The heirs of the original vendor were acting on a 1983 Greek Supreme Court ruling invalidating the 1969 sale contract on the ground that a 55-year-old decree barring foreigners from buying land in Greek frontier areas was also valid for foreign-controlled companies, even though incorporated in Greece.

The ruling was only a judicial declaration but it set a precedent for many Britons who encouraged by the Greek governments of the time, circumvented the 1929 ban by setting up Greek companies which acquired land on Corfu. The ruling put them at the mercy of any greedy vendor or his heirs, who saw the value of Corfu property soar over the years.

In the case of the Rothschild estate, the claimants asked the Corfu court for an order to take possession of the estate bought for £25,000 in 1969 and now worth an estimated £650,000. Two similar claims were filed in Corfu against British owners.

Yesterday, the claimants asked for a postponement of the hearing. Otherwise, under Greek procedure, they would have had to pay in advance 1 per cent of the value of the claim as court dues and duties.

Mr Rothschild's counter-claim, based on Community law of equality and freedom of installation, increased the risk that if their suit were lost, they would also suffer the additional loss and court costs.

Mr Anthony Massourides, the Athens lawyer acting for Mr Rothschild, said this was the first time a Greek court was being asked to overrule a Greek Supreme Court judgment for being contrary to European Law.

What also made the case unprecedented in the European context was that Mr Rothschild's company, which controls the Corfu company, is incorporated in Liechtenstein. He is a Briton and therefore a Community citizen, and is seeking the protection of Community law as the sole beneficiary of a non-Community company.

Reagan decides to press ahead with satellite-killer project

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Soviet negotiations on an anti-satellite weapons ban.

The President told Congress that the US had been studying a range of possible options for space arms control, with a view to possible negotiations with Moscow if such negotiations would serve American interests.

"However, no arrangements or agreements beyond those already governing military activities in outer space have been found to date that are judged to be in the overall interest of the United States and its allies."

He said the factors that

impeded the identification of effective Asat arms control measures included significant difficulties of verification, diverse sources of threats to US and allied satellites and threats posed by Soviet targeting and reconnaissance satellites that undermined conventional and nuclear deterrence.

The President's report - which also included a classified section on US and Soviet space activities - was a congressional precondition to the release of \$19.4 million in funds appropriated last year for the initial stages of the Asat programme.

Starwars for Europe

Cesme, Turkey (Reuters) - Mr

Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday assured NATO that any US "Starwars" missile defence would protect Western Europe as well as the US. A US official said he gave the assurance to fellow ministers as NATO opened a two-day nuclear planning meeting at this Aegean resort.

The "Starwars" project is a space-based defence using lasers and other technology still being developed to destroy intercontinental and medium-range Soviet missiles at various stages of their flight, from launching to reentry.

The official told reporters that Mr Weinberger was asked if the defence would protect Western Europe along with the US. The Secretary of Defence gave a firm, unequivocally positive answer, he said, adding that in his view the ministers were assured by Mr Weinberger's reply.

If a medium-range missile was to be knocked out as it approached its target, a defence would have to be based in Europe, he said. But there was no discussion of who would pay for any "starwars" defence sited in Western Europe.

President Reagan has asked Congress for \$2 billion (£1.37 billion) for research into the project next year. There is considerable scepticism in Congress and among some sections of the US scientific community whether such a space defence is technically possible.

The ministers, meeting under some of the tightest security imposed on a NATO session, were also told by Mr Weinberger that the construction of a large phased radar system was in the US view a violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile agreement. The US, the official added, had abandoned such radar installations.

Washington lawyer to investigate Meese

From Our Correspondent

Washington

Mr Jacob Stein, a Washington lawyer, has been appointed special prosecutor to investigate allegations against Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General Designate, in connection with his Senate confirmation hearings.

Mr Stein, who is 59 and is a former president of the District of Columbia Bar Association, was named by a special federal judicial panel. Mr Meese on March 22 asked the Justice Department to appoint an independent special counsel to investigate "all allegations relating to me" in connection with his Senate confirmation hearings. The allegations mainly focus on the financial dealings.

Mr Meese, who has the strong support of President Reagan, then said in a statement that it had become clear that the "misrepresentation



Mr Stein: To investigate the President's friend.

and baseless charges had distorted the atmosphere of fairness which must govern any confirmation process."

Malaysia asked to withdraw curbs on press

By Our Foreign Staff

The International Press Institute has called on the Malaysian Government to withdraw the extensive controls on press freedom introduced last week describing them as offensive.

The Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 passed by the Malaysian Parliament gave the Government the power to fine or jail journalists, suspend or close newspapers, and remove the right of appeal.

In a letter to Datuk Musa Hiam, the Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Peter Gailiner, director of the IPI said the new legislation represented an outright denial of press freedom.

Britain 'was entitled to arrest Danish MEP'

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

Britain was quite entitled to arrest the Danish trawler fleet owner and Euro MP, Mr Kent Kirk, for fishing inside territorial waters in January last year.

That is the view of the European Court's Advocate-General, Mr Marco Darnon, delivered in Luxembourg yesterday. Final judgment is due by the court by June. It is usual for the Advocate-General's opinion to have a major influence on the outcome.

In Mr Darnon's view, the court should find that Britain was acting properly to protect its fish stocks given that there was no European Community policy. This was not agreed until January 26, three weeks after Mr Kirk was arrested.

Mr Kirk had been allowed to appeal to the court against a £30,000 fine imposed by North Shields magistrates for the offence. He had deliberately got himself arrested at sea to test Britain's right to exclude Danish boats. Dozens of journalists accompanied Mr Kirk on the trip.

He argued that, since there was no Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) agreed at the time, he had every right to fish

Military seizes power in Guinea

Conakry (AP) - Military leaders seized power in the West African state of Guinea yesterday, a week after the death of President Ahmed Sekou Touré. Radio Conakry monitored here announced.

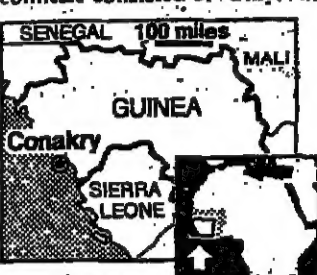
Mr Sekou Touré had ruled Guinea with an iron hand since independence from France in 1958, and according to the radio, the coup was greeted with popular enthusiasm.

In a statement, the military recovery committee said it had ordered the release of all political detainees arbitrarily deprived of their natural right to freedom and social justice.

It affirmed adherence to the principles of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement, and promised to respect international agreements made by Guinea in the past. The committee said it would restore the country's economic and social order, and would work for the realization of the principles of liberty, dignity and African solidarity.

They said earlier in a first statement that they had dissolved the constitution, the National Assembly and the sole party, the Democratic Party of Guinea which Mr Sekou created and through which he ruled.

The first statement said the committee consisted of Army, Air



Force, Navy, police, gendarmes, customs officers, the militia and Republican Guard.

The military recovery committee also closed the country's borders and airports, suspended mass organizations, banned meetings.

The coup came amid a 40-day period of mourning declared after Mr Sekou Touré's death on March 26 in the United States, where he had been rushed for emergency treatment following a heart attack.

His Prime Minister, Mr Lansana Beavogui, was named to act as head of the country, but observers said a power struggle had been expected to develop in the wake of the death of the Guinean leader.

The committee said a struggle had broken out between the late President's associates whose "hands were stained with the blood of so many innocents".

It paid homage to those Guineans who had died for expressing their opinions over the last 26 years, and promised that the "martyrs" will be rehabilitated and immortalized in our history.

According to Amnesty International some 4,000 people were arrested for political reasons between 1969 and 1976. The fate of 2,900 remains unknown, although some are believed to have starved to death. About 100 were said by the authorities to have been executed, and nearly 1,000 freed, according to Amnesty.

The new rulers said the military had staged the coup as an act of "duty to lay the foundation of a true democracy and avoid a personal dictatorship in the future".

Despite his reputation as a ruthless and bloody tyrant, Mr Sekou Touré was a founder of independent Africa, and many African heads of state attended his funeral on Friday, as did Vice-President George Bush of the United States.

The coup throws into further doubt the organization of African Unity's annual summit, scheduled to be held in Conakry in May or June.

Relations with Port Moresby at all-time low

300 flee over Indonesian border

From Tony Dobson, Melbourne

country of asylum for Melanesians who were pro-OPM.

The Government of Mr Michael Somare, as well as the previous Government of Mr Julius Chan, has given assurances that anyone crossing the border who reported his presence to the police would not be prosecuted.

The border between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia has been a touchy issue for some time, with reports of Indonesian soldiers engaging in "hot" pursuits into Papua New Guinea chasing OPM rebels.

Relations between Port Moresby and Jakarta reached a new low last week when two jet fighters, believed to be Indonesian, crossed the border and circled the patrol station at Green River about 10 miles from the Iran Jaya border last Tuesday.

The incident prompted a sharp note from the Papua New Guinea Government to Jakarta which offered the explanation

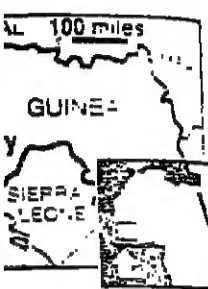
that they might have been Indonesian aircraft taking part in a military exercise in neighbouring Iran Jaya province.

Mr Namaliu spoke out yesterday over the suggestion contained in a leaked Australian Cabinet strategy paper that Canberra should encourage the Papua New Guinea Government to "suppress" OPM rebels as a means of reducing the potential Indonesian threat to the country.

He said that Papua New Guinea would not entertain or tolerate any foreign government telling it or directing it how to deal with OPM or any rebel activities either within the country or across the border.

●JAKARTA: A senior spokesman for Indonesia's armed forces denied that Indonesian F5E fighters had crossed the border and fired a rocket into Papua New Guinea territory during military exercises last week.

and early in the afternoon that the head of the committee on the Assembly side of the National Democratic Party, which Mr. Sullivan presided over, was held up and stated that the committee consisted of 10 members.



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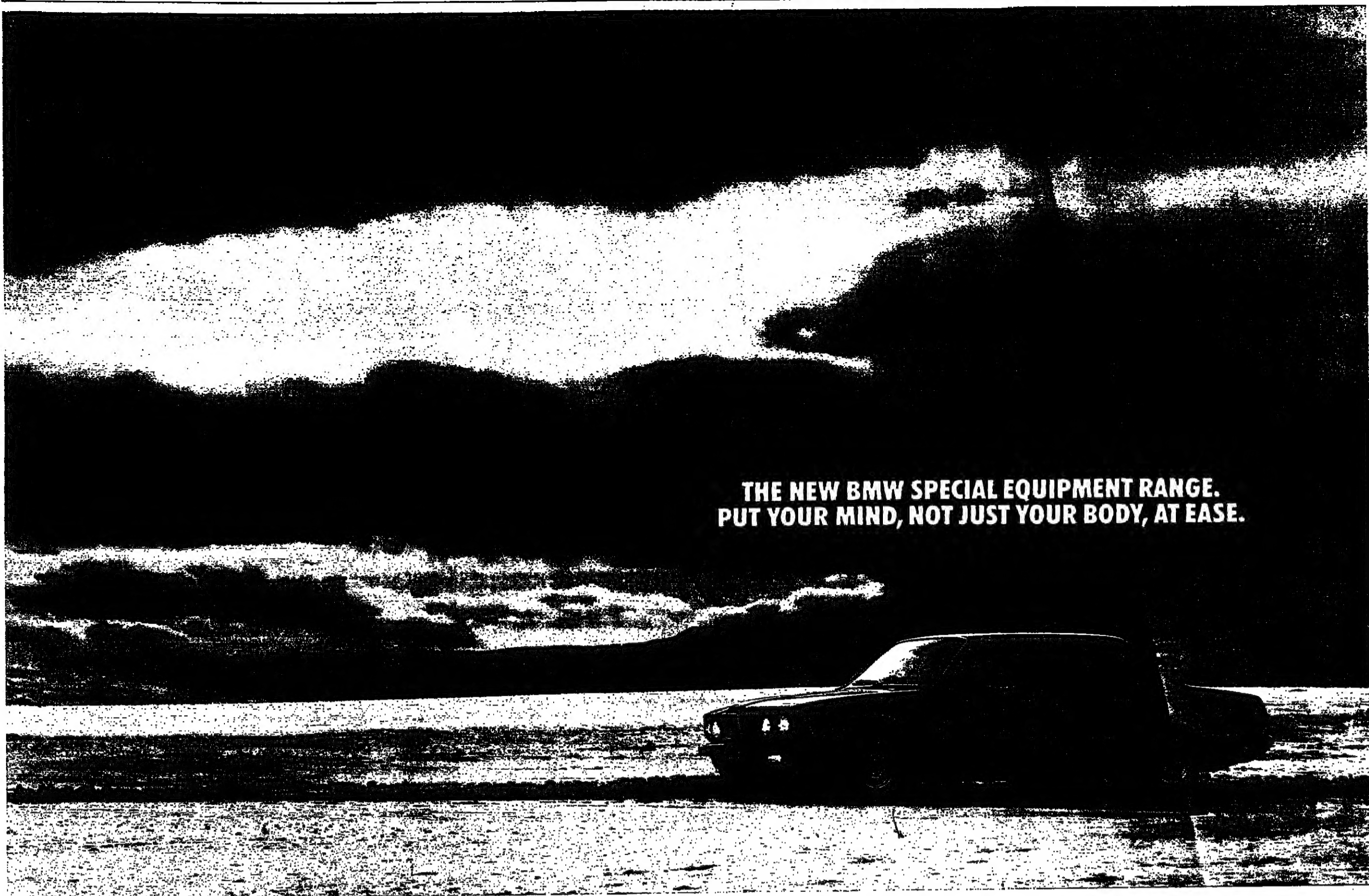
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Along with all the space, quiet opulence, and creature comforts that you'd expect in a £17,000 car, the BMW above gives you something far more important.

The car is the new BMW 728i Special Equipment. Much of the special equipment on board is there to make it a safer business going from A to B. Especially when conditions are going from bad to worse.

When roads are slippery, for example, you'll find the electronic, anti-lock braking system very reassuring.

Known as ABS, the system lets you slam on the brakes in an emergency without fear of launching your car into an uncontrollable skid. Even on a road like an ice rink.

In tests, cars fitted with ABS stopped safely up to 40% quicker than those without.

ABS is a feature that's also shared by the other two cars in the Special Equipment range: the 732i and the 735i.

The 735i actually takes safety a step further. It warns you of slippery conditions in advance.

An on-board computer monitors, among other things, the temperature outside the car. If it reaches the temperature at which black ice forms, it sounds a warning bell.

All of which is not to say, however, that a BMW Special Equipment 7 Series is just a foul weather friend.

When the sun is out, you can let it in at the touch of a button with the electric sun roof. When it turns humid, the automatic air conditioning in the 735i will keep you cool and relaxed.

And all year round, all three cars provide a sense of financial well being, thanks to the frugality of their advanced, automatic gearbox. It has an overdrive fourth gear that actually makes it more fuel-efficient than a manual.

Prices for the Special Equipment range start at £16,995 for 728i.

Small price to pay for a car that gives you all the comfort traditional luxury cars do.

Plus all the performance, driving pleasure, and advanced equipment that traditional luxury cars do not.



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THE BMW 7 SERIES SPECIAL EQUIPMENT RANGE. THE BMW 730SE COSTS £14,995. THE 730SE COSTS £19,325. THE 735SE COSTS £24,670. DOK FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE 720SE FOUR SPEED AUTOMATIC: URBAN: 19.5MPG (14.5L/100KM) 55MPH: 36.2MPG (7.8L/100KM), 75MPH: 28.5MPG (9.5L/100KM). PRICES, CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VMT BUT NOT DELIVERY OR NUMBER PLATE. INCLUSIVE DELIVERY CHARGE, INCORPORATING BMW EMERGENCY SERVICE AND INITIAL SERVICE £158 - VARY FOR A BMW 7 SERIES INFORMATION FILE, PLEASE WRITE TO: BMW INFORMATION SERVICE, PO BOX 46, HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX OR TELEPHONE 01-897 6685. FOR TAX FREE SALES: 55 PARK LANE, LONDON W1. TELEPHONE 01-439 9277.

SPECTRUM

The case of the microchip mole

California's Silicone Valley is becoming famous for its leaky security. Ivor Davis reports on the biggest spy trial in 30 years

This month, in a San Francisco courtroom, James Durward Harper Jr, a retired engineer from Mount View in the heart of California's Silicone Valley, goes on trial for selling to the US defence secrets ever to be smuggled out of the US. The Poles passed them on to the Soviet Union.

It will be the biggest spy trial in America since the notorious Rosenberg case in the 1950s.

The secrets - research documents relating to the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile and other American weapon systems - were at the core of the US defences and their sale to the Russians creates what Robert Galt, special agent to the FBI here calls "damage beyond calculation".

The Poles allegedly paid 49-year-old Harper a quarter of a million dollars for the documents, some 10 times what the notoriously tight-fisted Russians have ever paid for information, say the FBI, and one indicator of just how valuable the information was.

Another indicator is that Yuri Andropov, then head of the KGB, personally signed commendations to

Harper's European contacts who negotiated the deal.

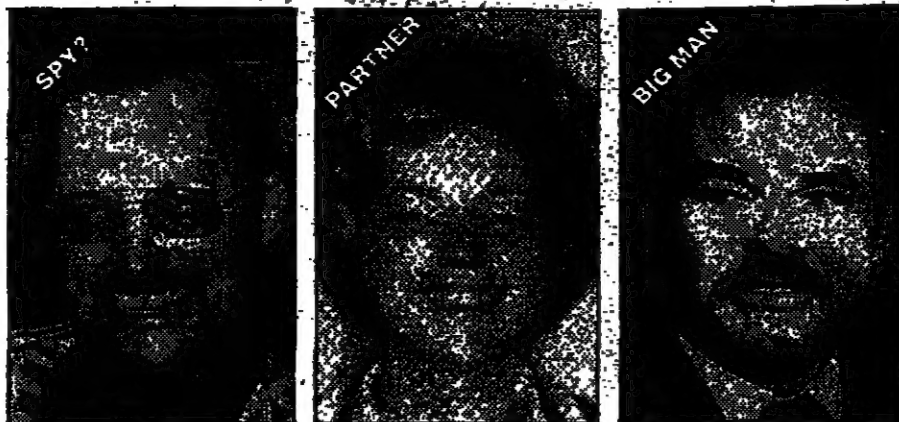
The trial promises to have all the earmarks of a John le Carré thriller involving a Soviet "shopping list" of US defence secrets carried around by Polish agents and passed on to Harper, secret rendezvous in Switzerland, Austria and Mexico City and a palatial villa outside Warsaw, and a team of international agents with code names like The Big Man, The Minister and The Source.

The story that will unfold in the federal courtroom of district judge Samuel Conti is unfortunately, in these days of ever changing electronic advances and fierce competition, an all too predictable one and Harper seems to fit the mould of American spies, who sell out their country for greed rather than ideology.

At just under six feet tall he tried to control his tendency to overweight by jogging, preferred the California upwardly mobile "uniform" of designer jeans and looked interchangeable with any of the thousands of engineers who work at the computer terminals throughout Santa Clara Valley, microchip capital of the world. Physically, he owed more to George Smiley than James Bond and he lived modestly in a two bedroom condominium.

However he did have a brilliant knack for invention himself, having created a highly commercial digital stopwatch. But he was no businessman and spent himself out of several companies with high living and international travel.

He was in some financial straits when he married Ruby Louise Schuler, a 39-year-old former executive secretary for Systems Control Inc, a



On trial: James Durward Harper (left) and (centre) his now-dead wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, right, William Bell Hagle

Silicone Valley defence contractor, which now belongs to the American arm of British Petroleum.

It is now believed the pair married purely for convenience after they had begun their espionage activities.

Mrs Schuler had top security clearance in an industry where companies worry more about spies from other firms and commercial competitors like Japan, than they do about national security.

Systems Control Inc had top secret documents in its Palo Alto offices relating to its contract with the Ballistics Defense Advanced Technology Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

By the time Harper was arrested in October 1983, Schuler, an alcoholic, had died from cirrhosis of the liver, but not before she had apparently given him regular access, late at night and on weekends, to the offices of SCI where he amassed photocopies of documents crucial to US security.

Przechodzień, officially a member of the Polish Ministry of Machine Industry, but in fact an officer of the SB, Służba Bezpieczeństwa, the Polish intelligence service.

Przechodzień became Harper's regular conduit for information from then on. Harper turned over to him initially enough material to whet the Pole's appetite for more.

In tapes released by his lawyer, Harper says, "I gave him... a copy of the front page, title page, table of contents and one chapter of all the documents I had available at that time. The Big Man assured the minister I could be trusted and the minister was very interested."

In the months that followed Harper turned over materials to the Poles in a variety of locations in Europe and Central America, according to court documents, and in June 1980 he sold the Minuteman file to the Poles at a villa outside Warsaw, for a reported \$250,000. He had asked for a million and allegedly boasted to friends that he had a reservoir of additional information hidden in his home.

Meanwhile the process of his downfall had begun.

First an American spy behind the Iron Curtain, with highly placed Polish contacts, in 1979 tipped off his chief that top level US secrets were being leaked out of the country. They were unable to trace the leak.

Then suddenly in September 1981 an unnamed Los Angeles attorney contacted the CIA and said he represented a client who had been selling secrets to the Poles. In exchange for immunity from prosecution, his client, he said, was willing to become a double agent. Surprisingly, the US Government said no deal.

In May 1979 Harper and Hagle flew to Warsaw where they met "The Minister" - identified as Zdzisław

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Lynn Seymour concludes her story with a brief brush with the movie moguls

Stardom - for a fortnight

Herbert Ross was on the line from the States. He had directed the musical numbers for the film version of *Funny Girl*, which would make him a very popular film director. Herbert and *Funny Girl* producer, Ray Stark, were developing a Broadway musical, with a dance setting, that could be transferred to the screen. Americans were swooning over "Swinging London" and Ray Stark, said Herbert, sought "real London kook" as the heroine. Herbert preferred a new face - an actress-dancer who would bowl over New York theatre critics. He wanted me. "I told Ray you were perfect," said Herbert. Could I fly to New York to hear details first-hand from Stark and Terence Rattigan, who was writing the script?

Within a week I was surrounded by Empire furniture in a suite at the Drake Hotel on a suffocating July day when the humidity billows over Manhattan like an airtight canopy. A secretary in Ray Stark's office at Columbia Pictures advised me to relax and do whatever I wanted. They would be in touch with me. They were waiting for Terence Rattigan. Rattigan was in Bermuda. I telephoned New York. "Hums, but maids and houseboys informed me that everyone was out of town, on other islands: Minorca, Capri, Martha's Vineyard, Fire Island."

Since I didn't know when they might telephone, I did not leave my hotel. The humidity would frizz my hair. My "kooky clothes" would be stained by perspiration and assaulted by dusty grit. Not daring to put on a wrinkle of weight, I sat in the air-conditioned suite consuming gallons of iced tea and eating watercress salads.

Finally they called. Ray Stark was giving a party that evening and his limousine would pick me up at eight o'clock. I bathed and perfumed and powdered myself. I painted my cheekbones in a three-way mirror: were they too high or too low? The chauffeur waited while I changed the colour of my lips from pale pomegranate to rosebud pink.

As soon as I entered the midtown apartment smiling at a mass of faces. Ray Stark, a big, amiable man who fitted my image of a movie magnate, rushed to greet me. "Lynn Seymour?" I nodded. He stood back, looking me up and down. "Herbie's right. You're perfect."

Ray Stark led me into a room as vast as a museum gallery and solicitously made a little space about me to various less-than-haird women who seemed to have stepped from the pages of *Vogue* and sunburnt chaps in aviator shades, loafers and shirts open to the navel that I did not particularly want to see. The chaps were discussing "deals" and "grosses". I heard two muttering, "But is she bankable...?" Ray says she is. The chaps were agents who packaged multi-million-dollar film projects. I began to feel slightly self-conscious. Herbie Ross arrived. Hugging me, he repeated that with Terence Rattigan in a day or two, Rattigan would outline the scenario. "But Herbie, I can't sing," I said, pondering my bankability. The musical was about a dancer, he answered. All I had to do was act and dance and singing a couple of songs. Could Vivien Leigh sing?

Hell, no. But she did warble in *Tovarich*. I mustn't worry. Herbie went on. He and Stark wanted a dancy show.

Again the chauffeur picked me up at eight and we drove a couple of blocks. I was deposited in front of some townhouses with black wrought-iron grilles and cast-iron jockey statues, symbols of the "21" club.

Some rather heavy mouths dropped into their cherrystone claims when I crossed the dining-room. The maître d' was undecided as to whether I was wearing a skirt or a sash. Ray Stark beamed. Herbert winked. Terence Rattigan - well, he looked as if he had just taken a laxative.

Horribly elegant in grey suit and maroon tie

Rattigan was not my type. And not because he had the mouth of a crocodile and petulant reddish eyes. Jeffrey Solomons had a flat in Chelsea where we converged for Sunday teas. One Sunday Jeffrey appeared at the door highly agitated. "The boy across the hall tried to kill himself for the second time. First it was sleeping pills. Last night it was the gas. Dear Aunt Edna - he's Terence Rattigan's lover. Poor boy. I wonder what goes on." Jeffrey had opened all his windows. "I'm airing out the room. It's not very amusing to live in a flat where your neighbour always wants to do himself in." I remember pitying the boy and wondering what goes on?

The master of the well-made play, as critics described Rattigan, was horribly elegant in a grey suit and silk maroon tie. Beneath the tailored, exquisitely groomed, surface lurked a cruel individual. I suspected: His face was rather set. Rattigan expressed his enthusiasm for the elegance and beauty of dance and the spirituality of the body in motion. "Yes, that's all quite true."

I said sweetly, "But the reality is sweat. Sweat that won't wash out of your practice clothes. And farting in rehearsal is not uncommon either." Terence Rattigan shuddered. Ray Stark hid his mirth behind a linen napkin. Herbert had warned that I was a "kook". He quickly manoeuvred our waiter into asking if we desire another cocktail before dinner.

We settled down to a serious conference. Rattigan outlined the story, entitled *Pas de Deux*. Wretched title, thought I, but... who knows? I was to play a kooky young dancer who lived in Chelsea. My boyfriend, whom I had known since childhood, was also a dancer. We both developed a passion for a mesmerizing, Diaghilev figure. The lad, far more ambitious than the kooky girl, wrote and wins the choreographer-impresario for himself. Quite crushed, the girl stops dancing, presumably to open a needlepoint shop on Clapham Common.

Listened without comment but two days later told Herbert that the story was utterly phony. Like, untrue, naïf, a pansy rewrite of *Design for Living*, which is pretty gay itself, but casually modern and funny, with the chaps and their wordy girlfriend all having sex, at the final curtain, we assume. With each other. And that sexual triangle was written in 1932. Noël Coward was ahead of his time. Rattigan was not. The project died, natural death.

"Goodbye to Broadway. Goodbye to Hollywood."

I had been handled like a new superstar for two weeks. But in the end, she never existed. Goodbye to all that.

Extracted from Lynn Seymour with Paul Gardner, to be published by Granada on April 26 at £10.95.

Yesterday's picture of Lynn Seymour and Frederick Ashton was taken by Anthony Colquhoun.



Terence Rattigan: master of the well-made play

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Lies and tries of touring South Africa

moreover... Miles Kington

Should the rugby tour of South Africa by an England team go ahead? Today we print some of the most interesting letters we have received from readers on the subject.

From Major Albert Hall
Sir, I have been following rugby since before the Second World War and let me say in passing that if the Germans had played rugby, that campaign would have been a much cleaner fought affair. There is nothing quite like a good hard world war between two genuine amateur sides. I have nothing against the Americans, but I can't help feeling that the entry of American football players at a delicate juncture in 1941 was unfortunate to say the least. I have seen a game of American football and I am not surprised that casualties were so high from 1941 onwards.

Where was I, I am sorry, I've forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

From the Bishop of Bath and Glos
Sir, I think all of us who have played rugby must be in two minds about the tour of South Africa. On the one hand, nothing that seems to support apartheid must be tolerated. On the other, to subject the South African to a dose of English rugby as it is played at the moment might prove so encouraging for them that they will be brought to their senses. If you thought the South African pass laws were inhuman, wait till you have seen the way the English interpret passing regulations.

The Venice Marathon

Entry forms may be obtained from me for the most interesting race in the marathon calendar, if you are fed up with conventional marathons. To be held in May, the Venice Marathon is the only one in the world which is held half on land, half in water. Entrants must be able to

run, swim and speak O level Italian: this is because the race goes along streets and canals, and because there is a three-hour break in the middle for lunch. For more details, send an SAE to Venice Marathon, Moreover Pasta Concession, The Times.

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Might I say in conclusion that all rugby players are the same colour after a game of rugby as anyone who has been privileged to be in the showers will know.

Yours etc.

From Mrs Harriet Greenham
Sir, I don't want to seem frivolous, but has anyone established if any blacks in South Africa actually want to play rugby? And can anyone think of a good reason for them to want to? I can't help noticing that West Indians have made great contributions to cricket and football in this country, but have left rugby severely alone. Has it occurred to anyone that perhaps blacks are too sensible to get mixed up in this distastefully violent yet shatteringly boring game? I personally am married to a rugby player who I never see on Saturday and who spends all Sunday in a foul mood, and I don't think that I can take much more of it. If any good looking, cricket-loving West Indians would like to get in touch, I already have my dancing shoes on.

Yours sincerely,

From Mr Fred Waldorf
Sir, I have never been to South Africa, but I am told that the majority of the population is subject to a hideous set of regulations which you cannot help infringing twice a minute and which makes life a nightmare. This sounds exactly the same to me as English national

rugby. My solution: let the team go there, but not come back. Yours faithfully,

From Mr Osbert Partridge, RA
Sir, I am horrified to hear that the England rugby team may be going abroad to South Africa. "Have things really come to this pass, that we cannot afford to keep them in this country? The English rugby team is one of the jewels of the national heritage, and having to sell them to a bunch of jumped-up Dutchmen breaks my heart. Surely, if we club together, we could still afford to keep them here? I enclose £5 to start the ball rolling.

Yours faithfully,

From The Brochure Officer, South African Embassy
Sir, Did you know that more dropped goals were scored by black people last year in South Africa than any other country in Africa? That there is already a fully qualified coloured touch judge in Johannesburg? And that oil was recently discovered under our national rugby stadium? These are just a few of the many things that people don't seem to know about us. To learn more, just send for our free brochure "Don't Believe their Lies - Believe our Lies!" Yours as usual.

Tomorrow
The Times Profile:
David Blunkett
controversial leader of
Sheffield City Council.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 309)

ACROSS
1 Grab for (4,2)
4 Professional pay (6)
7 Chinese vessel (4)
8 Since (8)
9 Multifunction corrector (8)
12 Up to date (3)
15 Furrow (6)
16 Indicating powder (6)
17 Do it yourself (1,1,1)
19 Restraint (8)
24 Wrecker (8)
25 1940 Japanese war minister (4)
27 Uncover (6)
DOWN
1 African charm (4)
2 Obligatory (3)
3 Gemini (5)
4 Head-cloth (5)
5 Not effective (4)
6 Pleated strip (5)
10 Close friend (5)
11 Banishment (5)

12 First in importance (6,3)
13 Hornet (4)
14 Old (4)
18 Unintelligent (5)

20 Incident (5)
21 Misake (5)
22 Boundary groundshot (4)
23 Jester (4)

SOLUTION TO No 308
ACROSS: 1 Jumper 5 Base 8 Light 9 Lanyard 11 Describe 13 Sink
15 Lendition 18 Hawk 19 Large 22 Whitsun 23 Trend 24 Whir
25 Accept
DOWN: 2 Urges 3 Kit 4 Rule 5 Stone 6 Stadium 7 Glade
10 Dyke 12 Rent 14 Wing 15 Lapse 16 Show 17 Ready 20 Sleep
21 Tear 23 Tie

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

Slow-down for elderly

From Mrs Marjorie Cornwell, Binsted Place, Mobility Centre, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey. Having read J. R. Spencer's excellent article "When time overtakes the elderly driver" (Friday Page, March 23), I would like to add that not only does driving provide something worth living for but it also prolongs the length of time elderly people can maintain their independence.

When a general practitioner is asked for an opinion as to whether his patient is still fit to be insured to drive a car, he has a dilemma. If he considers that the time has come for driving to cease because of the potential danger not only to his patient but also to other road users, he realises that he is, at the same time, removing the vital tool of mobility from his patient. This can be the beginning of a downhill spiral: elderly people require some physical exercise within their capabilities and the mental stimulation of contact with the outside world.

There are now a number of electrically powered pavement vehicles which travel no faster than 4 mph. I feel that we should concentrate on showing people whose mobility is restricted but who are not disabled how they can maintain a level of safe mobility in their locality. Many of them would opt for this slower vehicle voluntarily and others, who were told they could no longer drive, could be directed towards alternative means of transport.

Upsetting moves

From Jackie Boffin, 11 Pointers Close, Chichester, Newbury, Berks. I am a member of the Pre-School Playgroup Association.

I find it extraordinary that an obviously intelligent and caring mother like Lynn Peters (First Person, March 28) can expect a child of 4½ years to have coped, in two short years, with the transitions from "playgroup to nursery school, and nursery to infant school" and then with a change of home and school without experiencing any trauma or upset. Most adults would show signs of stress if uprooted from their job and surroundings four times in two years, so why are young children so frequently subjected to this sort of treatment?

If a nursery school place will become available shortly after a child would start playgroup, why start at playgroup? If a child is happily settled in a playgroup, why start nursery school? If you know you will be moving house in your child's first term at school, and the child is not yet five, why start school? There is no legal obligation on parents to send children to school, or to educate them otherwise until the term after that in which they become five.

Please, let us have more consideration of the needs of our young children.

Shirley Conran's latest idea, the no-cook week, gave mothers hours of fun and freedom from kitchen chores, reports Penny Perrick

Having taken the guilt out of housework with her book *Superwoman*, Shirley Conran is long to do the same thing with cooking. She says, "I should like to see women do less cooking and, in fact, no cooking after 6pm except for maybe once a week. As a full-time wage earner, I was tired for 20 years because I had to prepare that awful evening meal, on top of a full day's work. I think there is still anxiety about cooking up with the Joneses. Those over-elaborate 1960s dinner parties where the whole focus of the evening was food still continue."

To test her conviction that women spend far too much time in the kitchen, Ms Conran organized a No-Cook Week project at her old school, St Paul's. The mothers of St Paul's pupils were asked to stop cooking for a whole week, while their daughters were asked to report on the results. Cash prizes were offered by a kindly businessman after he had heard Shirley Conran talk about the need to reduce women's anxiety about cooking.

Today and every day for the rest of their lives, some 200,000 people in Britain will subject themselves to what one medical expert has called the "tyranny of the needle". They have no choice. For one in three of the nation's diabetics, those daily injections of insulin are the only defence against the third biggest killer in the world, after heart disease and cancer.

A year ago, a nationwide programme was launched to reduce the risks of error in insulin dosage and generally improve safety among patients. Whereas insulin previously was prepared in a variety of strengths of unit per millilitre of solution, it is now available in one single strength of 100 units, now known to every diabetic as U100.

The changeover is not yet complete, but it is generally agreed among specialists and patients that it has gone well. However, pressure is now growing on the Department of Health to take a further step towards reducing the "tyranny" of the needle—but it is being resisted.

At present, diabetics use a glass and metal syringe which is available on the National Health Service. An increasing number of doctors, however, are strongly advocating that plastic syringes, widely available through chemists' shops, should replace them, on prescription. They



School report: Prizewinners (left to right) Naomi Sachs, Martha Tiffin, Amy Douglas, Jane Ewbank

Derek Dutton, the head of public relations for North Thames Gas, helped Shirley judge the entries and offered seven consolation prizes—Irish linen tea towels—as well. One might have thought that Mr Dutton would have a keen interest in keeping women hovering near the stove, but a splendid cook himself, he thoroughly approves of better organization in the kitchen.

He says, "People are accustomed to cooking in a conservative,

traditional way and this is really not necessary; they cook that way because their mothers and grandmothers did. Research shows that mothers of families are very conservative—they still think that washing should be done on a Monday. A well-organized woman could reduce the majority of her cooking to once a fortnight; bulk cooking also cuts down the washing-up. Incidentally, Monday is the worst day of the week to do the

washing, because you're clearing up after the weekend. The secret is to think in terms of organizing your time, rather than organizing your cooking."

The results of the no-cook week showed that not cooking could be a liberating and useful experience. One mother was able to read "her first paperback since 1969". In gratitude to Shirley Conran, it certainly should have been *Lace*. Another went for her first job

interview in 15 years. One mother was reported as getting very fidgety when the time came at which she would normally be cooking but, even so, she managed to complete half a tapestry. Several no-cooks said that resorting to raw and ready-prepared foodstuffs saved them an hour a day, one of them adding that it seemed like more "because it was emotionally 'resting'". Although bought-in food turned out to be initially expensive, one girl observed

that since food was bought and stored to be eaten when people felt hungry rather than for specific meals, items actually lasted longer and lowered the cost.

Naomi Sachs, a senior pupil at St Paul's, who won the first prize for her report, said: "Meal-times proved to be much less of a lengthy affair so all of us, not only my mother had time for lots of other activities during the evening. On the whole we ate much more healthily—not much meat, more salads, fruit and vegetables." During the no-cook week, her mother, Sian, discovered the pleasure of reading a book in the early part of the evening rather than "last thing at night when she's normally too tired from cooking so much to enjoy it".

Martha Tiffin and Amy Douglas were joint second-prizewinners. Martha's mother, Elaine, didn't actually start writing the pornographic novel she'd planned but otherwise had a jolly time during no-cook week, including having old friends to dinner. Amy Douglas's mother, Angela, on the first day of no-cook week, was found putting something in the oven "but she had a bit of a hangover from a party so probably forgot".

Not every mother was enthusiastic about the idea. One decided to postpone her no-cook week because she was currently too busy to stop cooking, while another spent a lot of the week reading cooking books. This suggests that you can take a woman out of the kitchen but you can't always take the kitchen out of a woman.

Insulin – throwing money away?

Board's department of community medicine, says: "The difference in syringe costs is exceeded by the cost of wasted dead space in glass syringes." He says the wasted volume is equivalent of 4.5 units of U100, but is undetectable in disposable syringes, and amounts to £30,000-worth of insulin a year on Tayside. The differential in costs of syringes, he says, amounts to just £20,000 a year.

Dr Arnold Bloom, consultant diabetician and chairman of the British Diabetic Association, has conducted a study of the rival

syringes in which he concluded: "Disposable syringes are lighter, not apt to break, do not need boiling or keeping in spirit containers, and are easier to take on holiday. Introducing disposable syringes would allow considerable national saving."

Dr Bloom now says: "The Department of Health maintains that disposable syringes can only safely be used once, and refuses to put them on prescription. The manufacturers insist they cannot guarantee sterility after one use, but there is abundant evidence that

it is absolutely safe to go on using the same syringe and needle.

"In the view of the BDA, reusing a disposable syringe three or four times is quite acceptable. We had been making this argument to the Department of Health, but the changeover to U100 took priority last year and we needed the good will of the Department to see it through."

Manufacturers Rand-Rocket supply the NHS with £500,000 worth of glass insulin syringes a year and also produce disposable syringes for the retail market. Managing director Mr Randy Vickers acknowledges that more doctors are advocating the use of plastic syringes, but he warns: "We are concerned that disposable syringes should be used over and over again. Some consultants suggest they can be used for two weeks, or up to a month."

"I don't agree with the argument over dead space. I don't think there is much wastage of insulin in this way."

The firm has recently complained to the Independent Broadcasting Authority about an advertisement seen on Channel 4 for a disposable syringe produced by rival manufacturers, Becton-Dickinson, of Oxford. Rand-Rocket were unhappy that the word "unique" was used.

Mr Arthur Jackson, marketing

director of Becton-Dickinson, says: "Our products are exclusively for single use, but we knew a fair number of people take it upon themselves to use them more than once. The only advice we can give is to use the syringe once. We cannot guarantee total sterility thereafter." But he adds: "There is a large feeling among diabetics that disposable syringes should be available on prescription, and I can understand that viewpoint."

Disposable syringes are usually sold in packs of 200. These packs cost about £2.60, but diabetics can obtain VAT exemption certificates which would reduce the cost by about 32 pence.

The Department of Health continues to resist the pressure for disposable syringes on prescription, however. "The cost factor is the principal reason", a spokesman says.

"We don't fully endorse the belief among some consultants that these syringes can be reused safely. Standards of sterility have to be maintained at a very high level and the department could not allow itself to be responsible for the consequences to patients' health which might occur with the reuse of disposable syringes."

Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent



A disposable syringe: convenience or risk?

Nuts about praline

The invention of praline, that toothsome confection of roasted almonds and brittle caramel, is attributed to a cook employed by Marshall du Plessis-Praslin. And all I can tell you about him is that he lived from 1598 to 1675 which was a fair span for those days.

Almonds, hazelnuts, or a mixture of the two are the nuts called for in traditional recipes, and equal quantities of nuts and sugar are the classic proportions. Light toasting intensifies the flavour of the nuts and an almond praline can be made very simply by putting the blanched nuts and sugar in a pan and heating them slowly together without water until the sugar melts, by which time the nuts will have browned a little too. But as timing is critical with this method, and it does not do for hazels which must be toasted before the skins can be rubbed off, I prefer to make the caramel separately.

Praline
Makes 400g (14oz)
250g (8oz) blanched almonds or shelled hazels
1 teaspoon oil
25g (8oz) granulated or demerara sugar
5 tablespoons water

Spread the nuts on a baking sheet and toast them in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for

10 to 15 minutes, or until they are lightly browned.

Oil a metal tray or marble slab and put the nuts on it in a closely packed single layer.

Put the sugar in a saucepan with the water and heat slowly until the sugar has dissolved completely. Wash down into the syrup any crystals sticking to the sides of the pan. Bring the syrup to the boil and cook until it turns a pale amber colour and gives off a distinct caramel smell. Do not allow it to darken too much or the caramel will be too unpleasantly bitter. Pour the syrup over the nuts and leave it to set hard.

As soon as the sugar is cold and hard, break up the praline and grind or crush it to a fine powder. Praline is especially delicious, so store it in an airtight jar as soon as possible. Real praline ice cream is one of the most worthwhile flavours to make at home.

Praline ice cream
Makes about 1 litre (1½ pints)
6 egg yolks
6oz caster or soft brown sugar
½ teaspoon salt
750ml (1½ pints) milk
½ teaspoon real vanilla extract
110g (4oz) crushed praline

Put the egg yolks in a pan with the sugar and salt and whisk until the mixture is very pale and the whisk leaves a trail. Slowly add the milk, whisking continuously.

Cook the custard on a low heat, stirring constantly, until it is thick enough to coat the back

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

of a wooden spoon. Do not allow it to boil or the mixture will curdle.

Take the custard off the heat and stir in the vanilla and praline. Pour the mixture into freezer trays or a plastic box, and when it is quite cold, put it in the freezer.

Freeze until the ice has the texture of heavy slush, then turn it into a cold bowl and beat it vigorously before returning it to the freezer until firm.

Praline is also an excellent flavouring for hot soufflés. Sandwiched between two layers of soufflé mixture which have already been flavoured with it. Without this extra layer these soufflés can taste too eggy.

Praline soufflé
Serves four
300ml (½ pint) milk
3 large eggs, separated, plus 2 whites
55g (2oz) caster or soft brown sugar
55g (2oz) plain flour
12 tablespoons crushed praline
4 tablespoons rum or cognac
½ teaspoon salt

Generously butter four straight-sided 300 ml (½ pint) soufflé dishes and dust them with granulated sugar. Alternatively, prepare a 900ml (1½ pint) dish in the same way.

Bring the milk to the boil and set it aside. Beat together the egg yolks and sugar until the mixture is pale and light, then whisk in the flour followed by the hot milk. Return the mixture to the milk pan, and bring it to a simmer whisking constantly.

Simmer the custard for a minute or two then take it off the heat. Stir in 8 tablespoons of the praline and the rum or cognac.

Whisk the egg whites with the salt until they form stiff peaks. Fold a little of the meringue into the custard to lighten it a little before folding all the custard into the rest of the meringue.

Divide half the soufflé mix-

ture between the prepared dishes, sprinkle the remainder of the crushed praline over it and top with the rest of the soufflé mixture. Bake the soufflés at once in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 12 to 15 minutes for the small ones, about 20 minutes for the large dish. Serve the soufflés when they are well risen but still a little tremble.

Brioche de Saint-Genis
Serves 10
10g (½ oz) fresh yeast, or ½ teaspoon granular dried yeast
6 tablespoons tepid water
500g (1lb 2oz) plain flour
30g (1 oz) sugar
½ teaspoon salt
6 large eggs, lightly beaten
340g (12 oz) unsalted butter, diced and softened
200g (7 oz) crushed praline

Mix the yeast with the tepid (ideally 43°C/110°F) water and a pinch of the sugar. Whisk the mixture lightly and set it in a warm place for about five minutes, or until the yeast has dissolved.

Sift the flour, sugar and salt into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the beaten eggs and the yeast mixture. Using your hands or a wooden spoon, incorporate the flour into the liquid to make a well-blended dough. Add the butter and work it in thoroughly with your hands.

At this stage the dough is extreme slack and sticky, but it will become more coherent through two rising periods. Cover the bowl with a damp cloth or plastic wrap and leave it to rise for two hours or more, until it is light and airy. Knock it down and transfer it to a clean bowl. Cover it again and leave it to rise, preferably overnight, in a cool place. It is this second, long slow rising which will give the brioche its fine texture.

Beat three quarters of the crushed praline into the dough and turn it into a large well-buttered brioche tin or a straight sided round cake tin of at least 20 cm (8 inches) diameter and with 5 cm (2 inches) deep sides. Sprinkle the remaining praline over the top and leave the brioche to stand for about 30 minutes to allow the dough to recover.

Bake the brioche in a preheated moderate hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 4) for about 45 minutes, or until it is well risen and firm. Cool in its tin for five minutes before turning it out.

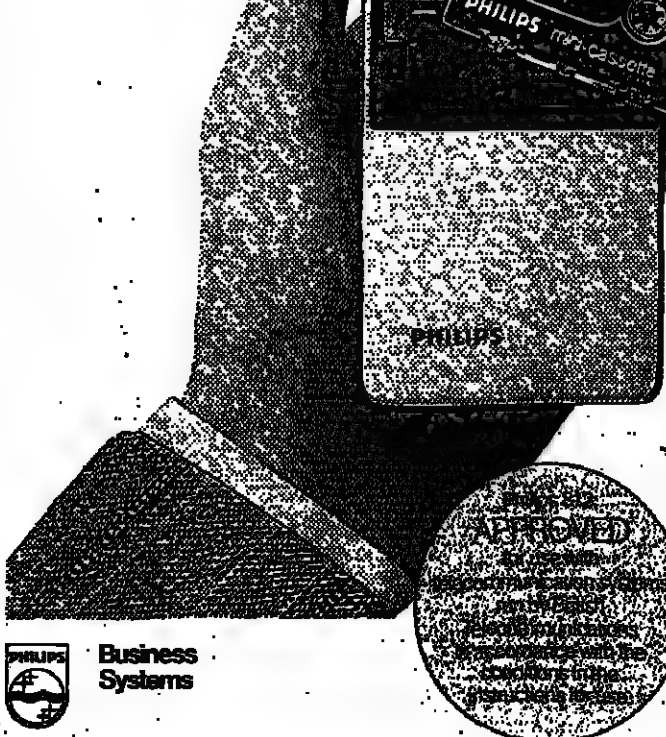
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THE TIMES DIARY

Towing the party line

Only weeks after the Monday Club was accused of harbouring extremists, a team of party wing Tory group now plans to launch an aerial assault over Greenham Common. In a letter to the club's executive council, a copy of which was passed anonymously to the *Diary* yesterday, chairman David Storey reveals plans to hire an aircraft to tow a publicity banner condemning the peace women and supporting the cruise. Members are asked to contribute towards the three-a-half-hour flight, estimated to cost about £300, and to conduct a message for the banner - to include *The Monday Club* - in not more than 35 words. Mr Storey, who tells me money is no object, had better start homing into his radio. I'm told that if, during his stunt, the Monday Club's pilot picks up a reply on the 23.1 frequency over Greenham Common, he could be bombed out. Literally.

Painted ladies?

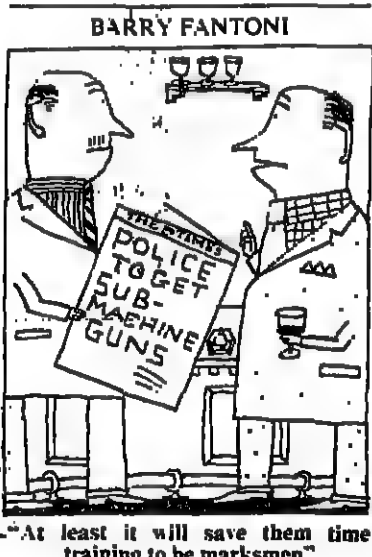
Audacious as it may sound, Paul Raymond is bringing culture to Soho. On April 13 he is staging the "classy but sexy" production of *The Collector* at his Boulevard Theatre, which has been empty for nearly two years. The theatre - within stripping distance of his Raymond Revuebar - was once the launching pad for comedians such as *Comic Strip*'s Rik Mayall. A Raymond employee described the play - about a repressed butterfly collector - as a "fantasy thriller. Director Brian McDermott, scarcely able to contain his excitement, said: "It's amazing - a play about sexual fantasies in the 'home of sexual fantasies'."

Drawing a blank

An organization known as the Ethical Investment Research and Information Service (EIRIS) distributed several hundred copies of a factsheet during last week's Stop the City campaign inviting readers to apply for details of any company which might be suspected of involvement in arms deals. EIRIS is unlikely to be inundated with replies. It omitted to include its address or telephone number.

Insecurity

The truth will out. At a press conference to launch Norman Fowler's social security review, Tony Newton, junior health and social security minister, casually referred to the Department of Employment as the Department of "Unemployment". A sharp dig in the ribs from Fowler, seated next to him, brought a hasty correction, but not before journalists made capital out of the poor fellow's blunder.



"At least it will save them time training to be marksmen"

Fan fare

A. L. Rowse has added a surprising dedication to his latest *Modern Edition of Shakespeare's Sonnets*, just out from Macmillan: "To President Ronald Reagan for his professional appreciation of William Shakespeare". Dr Rowse, certainly our most prolific writer on Elizabethan history and literature, has never met the President but was impressed by the informed interest in Shakespeare during an exchange of letters. The correspondence began when Reagan, then Governor of California, sent a fan letter after reading Rowse's *Shakespeare the Man*, recommended to him by their mutual friend, Caspar Weinberger. The "professional appreciation" in the dedication refers to the President's Shakespearean role as Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, which he described to Rowse as "good training for dealing with Congress".

Red curtains

The future of Moscow's avant-garde Taganka Theatre teetered between doom and uncertainty yesterday, apparently reflecting a behind-the-scenes struggle in the Kremlin's cultural corridors of power. Until last month it was the baby of the late Yuri Andropov's protégé, director Yuri Lyubimov, now in exile in the West, not least for his continued criticism of Soviet cultural bureaucrats. Yesterday, a notice went up at the theatre cancelling Lyubimov's production of *Master and Margarita*, and announcing that the theatre would be closed for the rest of this week. Hours later, administrators backedtracked, saying the play would go ahead after all, but only to a specially selected audience in closed session. Observers see it as either a move to end hero worship of Lyubimov, or a prelude to the final fall of the theatre's curtains.

PHS

Give us the benefit, Mr Fowler

Nicholas Timmins calls for frankness and full public debate as the welfare state is put under its most stringent review for 40 years

Norman Fowler has launched what he has billed as "the most substantial examination of the social security system since the Beveridge report 40 years ago" under the banner of open government.

After the leak of the 1982 Think Tank report on the future of the welfare state sent shock waves through the electorate and the mole hunters into Whitehall, Mr Fowler is promising that this review will be conducted with a public debate. He wants, he says, to answer the criticism that decisions were being taken "behind closed doors without people knowing what is going on".

Independent members will be appointed to three separate inquiries into supplementary benefit, benefits for children and young people, and housing benefit, as they have to the pensions inquiry already under way. Evidence will be taken in public sessions. A debate there will most certainly be.

But at the crucial point where conclusions start being drawn on the action to be taken, it is far from certain that ministers will be as open as they are pretending to be. The decisions on what to do to the social security system are still likely to be taken behind doors as closed as those of the Think Tank were meant to be.

A review of the system is desperately needed. It consumes £37 billion, 29 per cent of public spending. Payments are made to more than 20 million beneficiaries. Eighty thousand staff are involved

administering more than 30 benefits, some of which are a nightmare of complexity.

The supplementary benefit rules run to 16,000 paragraphs, 43 pages of index. Neither claimants nor DHSS staff can fairly be expected to understand a system that has grown piecemeal and almost at random since the Beveridge principles were introduced. The system is now riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies and is becoming incomprehensible.

How radical Mr Fowler's examination will be is still far from clear. He said on Monday that "we are not seeking to uproot the Beveridge principles" and that the reviews are not "a cutting exercise". Five minutes later he was saying that they would see "if all the principles are still applicable" and that savings found could be used for new benefit areas or for tax cuts. But it is the way the reviews are to be drawn together that will feed the paranoia of those who suspect the Government's motives.

The programme appears to run like this. Each inquiry will be staffed by six or so civil servants. In addition a centre unit will be set up within the DHSS. Its job will be to coordinate, to keep an eye on the

impact of the reviews on parts of the system which are not being formally included - for example unemployment benefit.

Mr Fowler has come close to promising that he will publish the housing benefit review - there is, he says, "an assumption" it will be published. The pensions inquiry, already under way, is likely to be published in stages, with portable pensions first, the strategic issues later.

But the two key reviews of supplementary benefit under Tony Newton, the junior social security minister, and benefits for children and young people under Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, may not be published at all.

The second of these in particular will range over a huge area - child benefit, supplementary benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds, family income supplement, single-parent payments, even payments to those in education and projects such as the Youth Training Scheme.

Instead of being published, it is likely they will go into a broad consideration of the whole social security strategy, taking in the tax systems - the way the interaction between tax and benefits creates a "poverty trap" for 160,000 families

- and decisions on whether the savings identified should go to the new areas of benefit or Mrs Thatcher's much sought after tax cuts.

At that point Mr Fowler has so far left it vague, and probably deliberately vague, as to whether the Government will publish a green or a white paper. If he opts for a white paper setting out Government proposals, the logic that led to its decision, the options it considered and rejected any awkward conclusions that Newton's and Boyson's inquiries produced that do not fit the Government's philosophy will be hidden from view.

The debate on what should happen to the social security system will be confined to accepting or rejecting the Government's proposals.

If Mr Fowler really wants the open debate he claims, he should match his actions to his words. The Newton and Boyson reports should be published. The succeeding paper should be green and not white, and the aim should be to produce as wide a consensus as possible for any radical change to a social system that affects us all from child benefit at birth to the last payment of pension and death grant at our funeral.

The Government, after all, has time. When the inquiries report, Mrs Thatcher will still have three and a half years to go. Another six months of debate about conclusions as opposed to evidence will not prevent reform taking place.

Bernard Levin writes an epitaph to the NT's 'Jean Seberg'

The iceberg that snowballed

Now that the run of *Jean Seberg* (more of a saunter, really) at the National Theatre has ended - the final performance was last night - it is, I think, worth trying to see what lessons can be drawn from a catastrophe that differs from the one which befell the Titanic not in its scale but in the fact that the tragic ship met its doom in the middle of a dark night, whereas the NT sailed lickerish-spit to its rendezvous with destiny in broad daylight and with its eyes wide open. If the Titanic's iceberg had been illuminated from end to end with neon signs reading "Danger - Do Not Collide With This Object" I imagine that the court of inquiry would have had a few sharp words to say about the quality of foresight on the ship's bridge.

First, let us say for the NT what can be said. That its repertoire should include all kinds of theatre, old and new, as well as work from all countries which have something to offer it, seems to me too obviously right to be worth discussing. And the modern musical comedy, that wholly indigenous American art-form, has for more than half a century been a fountain of theatrical vigour that still shows no sign of drying up: the fact that it has almost invariably had to be imported fully-grown is curious but in the end irrelevant: has the English pantomime ever put down roots elsewhere?

It was therefore perfectly proper for Sir Peter Hall to put on *Gypsy* and *Dolls* (though I shall never cease to mourn the first, abandoned attempt to stage it there with Olivier playing Nathan Detroit), which is probably the greatest of all American musicals, and came up as fresh as the day it was written. (It was hugely popular with the public - ironically, the NT are bringing it back to fill some of the cancelled performances of *Jean Seberg* - which gave the implacably wooden-headed another excuse to attack Sir Peter; this time it was for staging something people wanted to see. Well, it made a change from the implacables' normal complaint that he was putting on plays that people did not want to see.)

Anyone who knew anything about Hall and his methods must have guessed, as soon it was clear that *Gypsy* and *Dolls* was a very palpable hit, that he would use it as a stepping-stone to a production of a new musical, preferably purpose-built. Again, the intention was not only justified but admirable, as was the decision to stage an American product rather than a British one, though that gave the implacables yet another cause for complaint. (Most British musicals which threatened my hair with silver in the days when I was a theatre critic, fall broadly into two groups. One variety came embalmed in advance; these lurch on to the stage, topple slowly over and lie in a heap breathing stertorously for the next two and a

half hours. The others arrive apparently shot full of amphetamines: these are characterized by choreography in which the spine is kept perfectly straight while the bottom is stuck out and wagged rapidly from side to side. Both varieties are always dreadful.)

So far, nothing but commendation was in order. I raised an eyebrow when I learned the subject of the musical, and two more when I discovered that the point of it was that the eponymous heroine had been a victim of the evils of American capitalist society (my dear, they eat babies - no, I assure you, I heard from John Pilger, destroyed because she wanted to help those *poor* Black Panthers (my dear, they couldn't even afford to buy guns).

This did not seem to me to be the stuff of which enjoyable musicals are made, but I have seen many a success made of theoretically unpromising material, and I held my peace. For that matter, I held my peace, at least in print, after I saw it, and even now I say only that until the afternoon I spent at *Jean Seberg* I had never wavered from my conviction that the worst and most traumatic single episode of my life was being badly bitten by a dog at the age of seven, when I was convulsed, covered in blood as I was, that I was going to die, whereas after a visit to *Jean Seberg* I realized that that was only the second worst thing that had ever happened to me, and regretted that I could not apologize to the dog.

What went wrong? That question must be answered in two senses: what was so bad in the work, and why did nobody at the NT blow the whistle in time?

The answer to the first question only deepens the mystery of the second. It is that although Marvin Hamlisch's music was pleasant enough, the lyrics and the play (by, respectively, Christopher Adler and Julian Barry) were not just appalling - trite, witless, tired, without punch or bite - they were suffused from end to end with the fatal quality of the British musical: amateurishness. The chief characteristic of the home-made product is that if a couplet in a lyric does not scan, or rhyme, or imperfectly or a scene in the "book" falls flat, those concerned don't mind; the chief characteristic of the American version is that verses or scenes suffering from those imperfections are simply thrown out immediately, and the writer told to go away and not come back until he has got it right. There was a terrible British musical a few years ago called *Fire Angel*, two lines of which I first tried to demonstrate that it was no good, when "the local rabbi" was rhymed with "won't let that by". Imagine the curdling of my blood when, at the National Theatre, the ghost of *Fire Angel* took the stage, as the lyricist of *Jean Seberg* rhymed "bigot" with "dig it".

motion has not yet reached the needed two-thirds majority, but it is getting near it.

Even if the motion is rejected by a small margin, the Government could be so demoralized by the result that it would prove difficult to continue to govern effectively, to select the successor to President Figueiredo in the planned way - by electoral college - or for his successor to take over smoothly.

The Government plans to present its own amendment to Congress before the end of the month, proposing direct elections for the next president but one, probably in 1990, and sweetening the pill with other concessions, such as the return of some lost privileges to Congress and permitting direct election of city mayors and other appointments now made by the central government.

It remains to be seen whether these concessions will be sufficient to satisfy the public which, tired of suffering the harsh consequences of economic difficulties, wants to see the back of this government as soon as possible.

The three presidential candidates



Kelly Hunter as the younger Seberg, Elizabeth Connell as the older, presiding over a stageful of junk

With work as bad as the words of *Jean Seberg* Adler and Barry should never have been allowed into the country, never mind the National Theatre. But what made their slack, empty lines worse was the way they handled the story itself. Clearly, though she was weak and foolish, Jean Seberg was also the victim of real injustice. But this theme is put forward and developed with all the subtlety, skill and sense of a cartoon in *Krokodil*, and a particularly ill-drawn one at that. The writers appear to have no idea of how to make a point so that the audience is drawn on to their side, how to hold the balance fairly and thus ensure that when one scale goes down it can be seen to do so because it is truly heavier, how to portray a villain in a manner that shows at any rate a glimmer of understanding of what moves him to his villainy (let alone of understanding that this particular villain - J. Edgar Hoover - did much good as well as wrong). Instead, they write as though convinced that their potential audiences are as shallow, humourless and one-eyed as the script suggests they are themselves; *Jean Seberg* should not have been shovelled on to the stage of the National Theatre, but sprayed on a wall from an aerosol-can and signed "The Skinheads".

There remains the second question: why didn't the dog bark? Peter Hall is not just one of the best of living theatrical directors and an administrator of outstanding skill: he is perhaps our most complete and accomplished *homme du théâtre*. Why couldn't he see the iceberg, lit up as it was from stem to stern and blowing its hoover fit to bust?

I am not privy to the backstage gossip of the National Theatre, and

can't believe it if I were. But I can hazard a guess, based only on the logic of the story (which, after all, rules out the otherwise inescapable explanation - that Hall had slid off his trolley at last).

The code-word is "snowball". Once something as big, multifaceted and complex as a musical has moved even a few inches down the production mountain, the weight of it begins to increase by geometrical progression, and in no time at all the snowball - soon to become an avalanche - is unstoppable. I don't mean unstoppable only in terms of reaching the point of no return (though you can imagine the whale of a time the implacables would have had if so expensive a show had been cancelled before opening; even more important is that it must have become psychologically unstoppable. I believe that once the landslide had begun nobody was capable of seeing it straight; they must have fairly hypnotized themselves into the genuine belief that one of the most frightful stagefuls of junk ever seen in London was in fact a perfectly good show.

What now? Well, no permanent harm has been done. The next new musical to be mounted by the National Theatre will be on a small scale (it is to be staged in the Cottesloe) and will thus challenge no ominous comparisons. The failure of *Jean Seberg* leaves Hall with a very substantial artistic credit balance, and I know of nothing in the NT's Articles of Association that binds the management never to put on a flop. The implacables have a given tongue, of course, but my advice to them is to go and see *Gypsy* and *Dolls*; they may be no more sensible afterwards, but at least they will feel better.

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Patrick Knight

Peter Kellner

Just one Galtieri after another

Two years ago this week Mrs Thatcher sent the naval task force to recapture the Falklands. By any reckoning the Falklands war provided the Prime Minister with her most glorious hour. Yet somehow the anniversary reports from Port Stanley fail to reflect that glory. Instead they symbolize the futility and uncertainty of the Government's second term in office.

Consider: two years ago the Prime Minister established an inner cabinet of experienced, determined politicians to direct a clear mission: to recapture the Falklands. How vividly we recall the sights of that team entering and leaving Downing Street, their every pavement step recorded by the outside broadcast cameras, as they contemplated their next military and diplomatic move.

Remember Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, curling his shoulders at the despatch box and commanding the rapid attention of MPs - now disgraced and in exile with the west? Remember John Nott, the lean, unyielding Defence Secretary - now retired from politics? Remember Willie Whitelaw, the wise old cove who ensured Cabinet unity - now removed to the House of Lords? Remember Cecil Parkinson, the genial party cheerleader - now inching back from the edge of political oblivion?

Of that inner cabinet, only Mrs Thatcher herself remains in place. There is, in a way, justice in her survival. She alone saw the war as a simple morality play: a fight between goodies and baddies, cops and robbers, cowboys and indjuns. Where others worried over the details of Peruvian peace plans, or Common Market diplomacy, or the striking power of Exocet missiles, she retained her primitive faith in the story coming right in the last reel. Come June 1982 and her faith was vindicated, while others' doubts were not.

In all hero-to-the-rescue movies, we leave the cinema assuming either that there is no aftermath, or that the hero and heroine live idyllically ever after. We never see the dirty nappies or the blistering family rows. In this fatal respect, if no other, the Falklands war never could end like an old Ronald Reagan film. Two years on, and the prize for which more than 1,000 Britons and Argentines died looks even more tarnished than before.

Then there is Mrs Thatcher herself. Doubtless she would like her image to have been frozen on that night when she instructed us to "rejoice". But the real world, unlike the movies, keeps rolling. After keeping the "Falklands factor" alive long enough to win last year's general election, Mrs Thatcher's ability to control events has gone. Her opinion poll rating is now lower

than at any time since the Falklands. Today it takes a blind enthusiast not to see how tarnished her own image has become.

When Neil Kinnock became Labour Party leader six months ago, it was widely expected that Mrs Thatcher would eat him alive at Prime Minister's Question Time. It has not happened. Mr Kinnock started a little hesitantly, but today he wins more of these strange duels than he loses.

However, the sheer range of perceived government mistakes, from its handling of the unions over the Government's Communication Headquarters to the Prime Minister's own ineptitude in responding to questions about the Oman contract, has created a whole new picture of Mrs Thatcher. Instead of standing erect at the head of a determined political army, she seems to cower in a ditch as the arrows fly. It is not (yet) the quality or precise direction of each arrow that matters, but their number.

It is a posture that any previous prime minister, if he were candid, would find familiar. The point about Mrs Thatcher, however, is that she has chosen to set herself apart from previous prime ministers, as movie heroes set themselves apart from ordinary mortals. It is no accident that in almost every battle the Government now fights, Mrs Thatcher seeks a fresh Galtieri to vanquish. There is nothing dishonest about her approach: it is transparently how she thinks politics ought to be conducted. And as long as she can demonstrate the occasional success, many electors will agree with her.

But there are many issues where there are no plausible Galtieris, however much Mrs Thatcher may wish to conjure them up. The Common Market provides one immediate example where applying the heroes and villains model of human activity is more likely to lead to disaster than success. (A stray thought: suppose the deadline for solving the Common Market's budget problems had occurred when we were seeking diplomatic support against Argentina. What would our negotiating position at Brussels have looked like then?)

Another such issue is the fate of the Falklands themselves. Until the Government radically changes its policy, the cost and futility of the Fortress Falklands approach can only become more absurd and unsettling. As long as Mrs Thatcher searches her B-movie mind for a solution, she will fail. It would indeed be ironic if the very quality that triumphed in the saga of the task force should ruin its sequel. The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

And still they're not convinced

A month ago I wrote an appeal in these pages for the 364 economists who signed the manifesto which appeared in *The Times* in 1981 to come forward to assist with enquiries into the circumstances of a recovery which, they had told us, could not happen.

Three of them, Professors Neild, Hahn and Solow, responded promptly. In addition, Sir Bryan Hopkin wrote to me direct; and last week Sir Bryan, together with Professor Neild and Professors Artis, Godley, Meade and Miller, told Frances Wood, the *Times* economics correspondent, not to worry; it was all got up by mirrors.

Or almost all. True, inflation has fallen - to the lowest levels seen for 20 years - when they had said it couldn't, and would. They had said it couldn't, and wouldn't, because it was trades unions which caused inflation, and the only way to curb it was to recruit clever men like them to decree what the rest of us might pay, and earn, and charge. But this government had dismantled all such mechanisms.

Nevertheless, it has happened. But they all find consolation in the thought that it will not last; and they remain sublimely confident that one day they will be called upon to resume the congenial task of "restraining wages". We shall see.

University professors view the achievement of low inflation with some detachment. Their concern is with economic performance. And here their judgment remains severe. The recovery is a "mirage" - and due to the Government's closest conversion to their way of thinking.

It is not easy for lesser mortals to grasp how it can be simultaneously an illusion and a tribute to their wisdom. So let us take the two propositions *seriatim*. First, the closest conversion. According to Professor Artis, "the Government took more notice of the exchange rate". Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. It is true that since 1981 successive budget speeches have identified the exchange rate as one of the indicators of relative monetary stringency or laxity; and in practice the attitude of the authorities towards interest rates has been so strong that it has been relaxed when the exchange rate has been falling than when it has been rising.

Nevertheless I think the professors ought to tell us why, over the past three years, the monthly reserves figures have shown such modest evidence of exchange rate intervention if they wish us to believe that ministers have bowed to their advice to manipulate the parity (as opposed to acquiescing in fluctuating market judgments of the value of North Sea oil).

Others of our mentors attribute the "levelling-out in activity" (at 3

per cent per annum) in large part to "the Government relaxation of controls on consumer credit" (Professor Neild). So far as I am aware there have been two specific instances of such relaxation: the raising of the mortgage interest relief ceiling from 25 per cent to 30 per cent a year ago and the elimination of hire purchase controls in the autumn of 1982.

But since the professors believe that people's behaviour conforms to rules and not to market signals they would be a good deal more sanguine than I about the application of mortgage finance to the purpose for which it is designed. So in practice we are talking about the abolition of hp controls.

In retrospect it is evident that this move did have an impact on consumer credit purchases which was both larger and more far-reaching than we foresaw at the time. Even so, the figures are not all that remarkable. In the 12 months before the abolition of hp controls new hp business grew by £8.3 billion. In the ensuing 12 months it grew by £9.4 billion, or about 10 per cent. Which hardly seems quite enough to explain away "in large part" the current remarkable recovery in the profitability of the corporate sector or the current gdp growth rate of 3 per cent a year.

The nub of the argument, however, is that the recovery has been got up by the press and smart-talking ministers. Professor Miller states flatly that it has never happened. Sir Bryan Hopkin and Professor Meade find it less easy to dismiss the evidence before them. But they would presumably not quarrel with Professor Miller's assertion that "the level of gross domestic product remains far below its pre-recession trend line".

We all pick figures that suit our book. Sir Bryan Hopkin has invited me to compare the rate of growth since the lowest point of the recession, three years ago, with the halcyon days of Keynesian demand management from 1947 to 1973. What was remotely "monetary" about the management of the economy between 1973 and 1976 escapes me; as the annual rate of growth then declined to less than 1 per cent a year it does not merit the picture. But Professor Miller must have experienced a longer recession than the rest of us to get back to a "trend-line" far above our current rate of growth.

Here the Government and its critics would be at one, of course; in conceding the woeful absence of recovery employment. Sadly, even here diagnosis and cures diverge. The Government lays the blame - domestically at least - on the inflexibility of labour markets. The professors would stop people pricing themselves out of the market by controlling wages. They are men after Mr Scargill's heart.

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MONUMENTAL ISSUES

One of Government's besetting sins is an inability to co-ordinate the activities of its right and left hands. Thus the series of inquiries announced by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, into different aspects of the social security system would at first glance seem the worst possible way of tackling so complex and interwoven an area of government policy.

It is becoming clear, however, that the critical decisions will be taken by Mr Fowler's central co-ordinating unit, which will draw on the work of the separate groups investigating pensions, housing benefits, supplementary benefits and those paid for children and young people. This unit will range widely in its attempt to construct "a new Beveridge". In particular, its job must be to consider the basic division of benefits between those which are automatic for certain groups of people (like child benefit); those which are means-tested (like supplementary benefit); and those which are based on the contributory system of national insurance. It must also consider the interaction of the benefits system with income tax - a prime cause of what has come to be known as "the poverty trap".

While the new groups on the circumference of this major inquiry will take evidence in public, the central unit will work within government. This may not be a defect: its main job will be to collate and digest, and to coordinate with the Treasury, vitally involved in questions of tax changes. Indeed, it is rather a welcome change to find government making use of the existing Civil Service, which is after all paid to do the work, rather than farm the job of informing policy out to yet another royal com-

mission. And Mr Fowler's retirement inquiry has proved the complementary usefulness of public hearings.

But there are other ways in which the Government, though not necessarily Mr Fowler himself, has laid itself open to criticism. His central unit, and finally ministers, will produce proposals which must be open to consideration and review. This will not be an overnight affair: the issues involved are truly monumental.

Should we, for example, retain a national insurance system at all, or should all benefits be financed out of income tax? The national insurance system is something of a farce: the contributory basis is rudimentary, and the scheme is not "funded" - each year's benefits are paid for out of each year's contributions. Moreover, the existence of separate national insurance contributions distorts the progression of income tax: it has a floor and ceiling which fit ill with income tax thresholds and rates. As contributions have risen, and are expected to rise further, this distortion has become more and more offensive.

Any reform of the national insurance system, however, would have far-reaching implications for the earnings-related pension scheme, introduced only in 1978 and still several decades from maturity. And pensions provide a cautionary tale for the Government. The new pension scheme was the outcome of several parliaments of party political argument, ending in a kind of exhausted bipartisan agreement. A comprehensive review of the social security system will be even more in need of the foundation of national consensus. Maybe, in today's

politics, inter-party agreement across the floor of the House of Commons is too much to hope for. But Mr Fowler needs time to test and garner public support for change.

Yet time has been dangerously wasted by this Government. It is nearly a year since the general election. Mr Fowler is now determined to press on fast, so as not to lose the momentum of reform; he plans outline proposals by next spring and knows that if things fall much behind that timetable he has no hope of legislative action before the next election. The timetable would look more realistic if the Government had launched its inquiry last summer.

For this the Prime Minister is probably more to blame than Mr Fowler. The Social Services Secretary knows only too well, the dangers of drifting on without clear priorities in public spending; he has suffered more than many from pedantic Treasury book-keeping. Not that the need to balance the books will disappear with the announcement of these inquiries; the most that can be hoped for is that decisions on saving and spending public money will be better informed.

But the constraints on public spending provide another reason for deploring the Government's delay. The last attempt at major reform was in the early 1970s, when reconstruction of the tax and benefit system was sweetened by a considerable injection of public cash. Smoothing out the anomalies in the system of tax and benefits without causing hardship is not easy. If money is tight, the more time and patience, are needed to arrive at answers that are both just and seen to be just.

NO FREE LUNCH FOR FARMERS

The European Community's monstrous over-production of milk could not be rectified without hurting the dairy farmers, whose prosperity has been founded on expansion of herds and yields. The corrective measure finally agreed at Brussels at the week end - national quotas enforced by a penal tax on excess production - immediately worsens the financial outlook for all dairymen, though each remains in ignorance of the precise effects on him until the detailed application of the new policy has been settled. The average cut in production of just under 7 per cent may be no worse than what a late spring and dry summer will do. But with the weather there is always the chance of a better season next year: with the CAP there is now no relief in the outlook. Anyway there is no use inveighing against the weather. It may be no use inveighing against Mr Joling either, but it gives more relief to the feelings.

He had a tough time when he answered questions in the House on Monday. The complaints were fuelled by resentment. Resentment against the Irish who alone in the Community will be permitted to expand milk production this year. That is because the Irish won acceptance for their argument that dairying is uniquely important to the Irish economy, constituting a "vital national interest" under the conventions of the Community. (The United Kingdom

quite rightly pins that label not on its dairy sector but on the formula for determining its annual contribution to the Community budget.) But the Irish did not win a bankable assurance of further permitted expansion after this year. Ireland's farmers like others will have to adapt to a diminishing prospect for milk; they are just being given more time, as is appropriate to their greater collective dependence on it.

Resentment too that Britain is required to cut back its milk production harder than for instance France although Britain is not, while France is, self-sufficient in milk and its products. Resentment that the price changes in this review have been together, expressed in national currencies, are even less favourable to British farmers than to most of the others in the Ten. Resentment that once again cereal growers (who see a one per cent cut in the support price) are relatively unscathed.

Even while seeking to show his farming friends that what he came back with from Brussels was not as bad as all that, Mr Joling found he was vulnerable also from the rear. Where, he was asked, was that fundamental reform of the CAP which his Government had gone into the negotiations to get. The commitment to hold the rate of growth of farm expenditure below the rate of growth of the Community's financial resources was neither precise nor strong; and

did not this great price and production cutting effort, boiled down to an actual rise of expenditure of 6 per cent; and would not milk, for all the pain of this adjustment, still be 12 million tonnes (nearly 15 per cent of production) in unsalable surplus? Mr Joling: "I do not believe that the agreement falls far below the measures needed for a fundamental reform. It is a vital first step..."

As a first step it does retard the runaway rate of exhaustion of Community funds, and it makes two innovations: agriculture ministers have summoned up the courage to cut support prices in cash amounts and not just post-inflation terms, and a production ceiling has been placed on a major commodity in chronic surplus. Further steps will have to follow this one if the public finances and production levels of European agriculture are to be rationalized. But if the agriculture agreement leads on to a budget agreement including an enlargement of the Community's sources of revenue, the pressure to resist the politically powerful farming interest will be eased. The need to do so however will be no less. After steelworkers and miners farmers have now to be brought to acknowledge that there is no profitable future in the production of unsalable goods at administered prices. Pharaoh's dream recurs. The well favoured, fattened king have had their turn; the lean years are upon them.

ALFONSIN'S 100 DAYS

The close of Dr Alfonsín's first 100 days has coincided with the second anniversary of the invasion of the Falklands. The occasion was marked by the inauguration of a war memorial at Lujan, where the President reaffirmed Argentina's claims, and a less dignified demonstration in Buenos Aires, which damaged the clock tower that used to be called the Torre de los Ingleses. At the same time the government achieved last-minute assistance on its debt problems, postponing their definition a little longer. What has restored democratic government achieved so far, in the face of so many grave problems, all connected?

Dr Alfonsín has dealt firmly with the military hierarchy, and his measures have met with a high level of agreement. The trial of accused officers by military courts, but with civilian assessment and the possibility of appeal to civil courts, has the merit of his insistent constitutionalism. The government has not flinched at exhuming the past, as was plain to see in December and January. It has altered for the better the tone of

national debate: so far there is less intransigence, fewer chanted slogans. In international relations Argentina is close to an agreement with Chile on the Beagle Channel, and in her latest debt negotiation has received the combined support of Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and the United States.

There have also been failures. The government's legislation to democratise and re-structure the trade unions was halted in the Senate by the Peronists and their allies. No grave confrontation has yet occurred, but strikes have been frequent. This is natural enough in a democracy in Argentina's circumstances, and the exchanges have been a genuine dialogue. More serious is the "missing" economic plan.

The Radicals argue that they were unable to investigate the full seriousness of the crisis, before taking office, and that no negotiator shows more of his hand than is convenient. Their political circumstances - a demanding electorate, the Peronists in opposition, a union movement feeling for power again - mean that they must be

seen to fight for the most favourable terms, and to drive the hardest bargain they can with the banks who lent to their predecessors.

There still has to be a bargain, and if it is going to be difficult for the banks it is going to be difficult for Dr Alfonsín too. Despite talk of self-sufficiency in oil and in food, a real breakdown in debt negotiation would produce enough economic chaos in Argentina even to install another military government. It would also cost the country the international respectability and the regional support that Dr Alfonsín has set out to regain. He will argue about obligations, but he will not repudiate them.

Dr Alfonsín's priority must now be to produce a coherent plan for his country's immediate economic future, an end that Argentines naturally place first and one that will explore to the full their present capacity for compromise. Yesterday's ceremony and demonstration remind us of other long-term Argentine aims. At least the demonstration was not government-inspired.

Calling Telecom to account

From Sir Ian Morrow
Sir, British Telecom has now restated its profit for the year to March 1983, showing an increase from £365m to £1,030m. The first figure is used as the basis for price increases to consumers, the second, for setting the price for investors. Both of course are certified as "true and fair".

With this example will other nationalised industries, e.g. British Gas, please restate their profits on a historical basis?

Perhaps the Treasury could be persuaded that private contractors to the Government should use inflation accounting figures for determining their costs on non-competitive bids.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MORROW,
23 Chester Terrace,
Regent's Park, NW1,
April 2.

Choice of bishops

From the Chaplain of Halesbury
Sir, Is Clifford Longley correct in assuming (feature, March 28) that clergy decline bishoprics merely because they hope for something better, or their wives dissent?

Given the unsatisfactory role the Church of England assigns to its bishops, I think it more likely, and charitable, to conclude that some men are justified in believing that they can better serve God and the Church (alas, the claims of the two do not always coincide) by remaining in their present posts.

Also, before the Church can exert pressure on a man to accept in the way Mr Longley suggests, it has to be very sure of the correctness and wisdom of its choice. Can we be so certain? Perhaps not all who have been less than successful as bishops were second, third or fourth choices.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LEWIS,
Halesbury,
Hertford,
March 29.

Accommodation costs

From Mr H. Michael White
Sir, I should like to draw your readers' attention to the fact that the DHSS in the London area are more and more inclined to put homeless people into bed and breakfast accommodation at very high cost.

It appears that this is done because it is easier than finding hostels for the applicants. The result is that this charity and many other women's hostels are not being fully used.

The average charge on the DHSS for a bed in one of the women's hostels is around £40 a week, whereas the cheapest bed and breakfast accommodation costs many times this figure.

I suggest that the £1m a year asked for by the enterprise allowance scheme, reported in your issue of March 29, could easily be saved by the DHSS if it stopped this extravagant practice except in cases of extreme necessity, for which it was originally designed.

The saving on the difference would surely be much better spent on encouraging new enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
H. MICHAEL WHITE,
Chairman of the Council,
The House of St Barnabas-in-Soho,
(The House of Charity for Distressed Persons in London),
1 Greek Street,
Soho, W1,
March 29.

Seeing is believing

From Mr Gordon Graham
Sir, Roderick Graddidge, in his article about "the end of the dreams of modern architecture" (March 30), makes the statement that all good architecture should "within a few years fit completely within the cityscape and become unnoticed".

I confess that I never fail to rejoice in the wonderful and strikingly noticeable attributes of St Paul's, the Palace of Westminster, the Piazza San Marco, the Scampano building, Manchester Town Hall, Ronchamp, the Milan Galleria, Johnson's Wax, Durham Cathedral, the Parthenon, my own club, etc. etc. Aren't any of these noticeable masterpieces good architecture by anyone's definition?

Should I really only notice buildings of the past few years? Personally I don't care for any of Graddidge's examples - not that that invalidates them - but I do claim to be a member of the "people" about whom he waxes so authoritatively.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON GRAHAM,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
March 30.

Poland and the West

From Mr Brian Thomas
Sir, Professor Robin Kempall's indignation at the plight of the Polish people seems, on the evidence of his letter of March 13, to have upset his historical judgment. At no time did the Soviet Union make the commitment to "free and unfettered elections" which he described, neither at Yalta nor anywhere else.

By quoting only part of the key sentence of the Yalta Joint Communiqué on Poland (and by omitting its subject altogether) Professor Kempall fails to reveal that it was the future "Polish Provisional Government of National Unity", not the Soviet Union, which was "pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections". The only role allotted to "M Molotov, Mr Harriman and Sir A. Clark Kerr" was that of

New principle in Arts Council policy

From Lord Cudlipp

Sir, The new mandarins of the Arts Council are swiftly redressing the imbalance in the largesse dispensed from 105 Piccadilly to London and the regions: a 5 per cent switch of £6m is a promising overture. They have recognised at last that the querulous quango they now administer is the Arts Council of Great Britain, but another injustice needs the attention of Sir William Rees-Mogg and Mr Luke Rhinier before their revolutionary fervour subsides or is exhausted.

A new principle, so far unacknowledged, has edged its way into Arts Council policy. The desirability of joint funding with equal or proportionate contributions from county, borough or district councils is thoroughly wholesome, but what was regarded as desirable five years ago is now stipulated as a condition of council aid.

Sir Roy Shaw, Mr Rittner's predecessor, proclaimed the new policy in his 1980/81 report: "The council is chary of funding an activity in a local authority area for which the local authority shows little concern."

It follows that if the authority shows no concern at all, the Arts Council and its regional associations may do likewise, and there can no longer be doubt about the reality of this threat: no local aid, no national grant.

The citizens of the boorish Philistias (West Sussex is a notorious example) will remain liable to pay their national "culture tax" of 4p per week but may never hear a professional belch from a French horn in return or witness a touring drama company.

The Arts Council's royal charter, 1967, defines two of its objects as to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts; to increase the accessibility of the arts to the public throughout Great Britain. There is not a single word stipulating that accessibility should be increased or available only in areas where the handout from taxes is bolstered by a handout from the rates.

An Arts Council pamphlet, circa 1980, entitled *What is Dues*, expresses the noble intention of "increasing the accessibility and knowledge of the arts everywhere." Everywhere? But what if the local authorities, who are normally expected to contribute, abnormally won't? Is the ACGB assuming powers to designate no-go areas, or cultural ghettos, where the (professional) performing arts will become extinct?

The solution to Sir William's quandary lies in the recommendation of the all-party select committee that local authorities should be given a statutory responsibility

bility to ensure that all sections and ages of the community shall have access to the arts.

In the meantime it is surely the moral responsibility of the Arts Council under its royal charter to "increase the accessibility of the arts to the public throughout Great Britain" - especially in, and not with the exception of, the no-go areas. Or is it the intention of the Arts Council to concede total victory to the bone-headed civic philistines whose simple philosophy is that there are "no votes in the arts"?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CUDLIPIP,
The Dene,
Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne,
Chichester, Sussex,
March 31.

From Dr Selby Whittingham

Sir, The modest switch from London to the provinces in financial support for the arts that has been made by the Arts Council has not been paralleled in the main art gallery world. In the same week that a request for money from Manchester was turned down the National Gallery bought another expensive masterpiece.

Surely the huge purchase grants of the over-stocked London galleries set against the small ones for provincial galleries are much less defensible than the sums given to the Hayward Gallery or Royal Court Theatre and other such London institutions needing money just to exist? Why do nearly all the best pictures purchased by the nation still have to go to London?

Yours faithfully,
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,
151 Cromwell Road, SW5,
April 1.

From Mr David Sylvester
Sir, Mr Levin (feature, March 31) tells us emphatically that everybody got it wrong about the things the Arts Council was proposing to do. The only proof he offers is that in the end the council didn't do them.

The implications are that discussions within the council of the possible options ended long before the day of decisions on March 28 and that those decisions were totally unaffected by expressions of anxiety from the world outside.

In my days as a member the council's deliberations on important issues were both prolonged and responsive to public opinion. It seems improbable that all that has utterly changed. In other words, maybe those letters in your columns mattered.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SYLVESTER,
35 Walpole Street, SW3,
April 2.

Third World deaths

From Professor Gordon T. Stewart

Sir, The assertion by Caroline Moorehead in your centre page on March 26 that the majority, or even a substantial minority, of infant deaths in the Third World or anywhere else can be prevented by immunization is a dangerous oversimplification of a complex and variable problem.

It is surely obvious by now that the main threats to life, by far, are malnutrition, gastro-enteritis and dehydration, each aggravating the other and none specifically preventable by immunization.

The Big Six are not so big everywhere, bad as they are in some places, and immunization is not always as effective as is claimed, for instance, against tuberculosis in India and against whooping cough in some other countries.

There are also very definite risks of severe and sometimes life-threatening adverse reactions if vaccines are administered indiscriminately in mass inoculations and it is not always possible in developing countries to take adequate precautions to ensure safety in this respect.

There was a time, not so very long ago, that the infant mortality rates quoted by Ms Moorehead and Unicef were commonplace in developing Western or Northern countries, including our own. The

Big Six were also much more common then than now. Even so, they never accounted for the majority of infant deaths and, as causes of death, they fell by very low levels before there were any vaccines or other specific medical measures available.

If the lesson of history as well as of epidemiology is to be read rightly, it is that the control of infant mortality depends now as always on the care of children generally by improvements in personal hygiene, water availability and safety, breastfeeding where practicable, education of parents and older children, with provision of medical or nursing care when and precisely where the need arises.

Immunization is a useful adjunct to all this, but it is a serious mistake to preempt funds and effort on the assumption that it will deal with the greater part of the continuing problem in the Third World.

It is demonstrably true that children die there with measles, but they die mainly because they are malnourished or otherwise neglected; the others mainly survive, as they do in developed countries almost always.

Yours etc,
GORDON T. STEWART,
Department of Community Medicine,
University of Glasgow,
Ruchill Hospital,
Glasgow.

VAT on building

From Mr Vernon W. McElroy

Sir, Mr Wickenden (March 28) has put his finger on a most iniquitous aspect of the Budget VAT proposals. It is to be hoped that the Finance Act will recognise this and at least provide a cut-off line for retrospective liability if not totally abolish its application to contracts placed before the Budget date.

Yours truly,
VERNON W. McELROY,
Director of Estate Management,
University of Cambridge,
Estate Management and Building Service,
74 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge,
March 28.

being exempt from VAT) this is effectively a retrospective tax adding some 7 per cent to the cost of a contract placed a year and a month before the date of its announcement. It is to be hoped that the Finance Act will recognise this and at least provide a cut-off line for retrospective liability if not totally abolish its application to contracts placed before the Budget date.

Yours truly,
VERNON W. McELROY,
Director of Estate Management,
University of Cambridge,
Estate Management and Building Service,
74 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge,
March 28.

attempting to broaden the existing provisional government, which they did.

If perhaps Professor Kempall had at the back of his mind that other product of Yalta, the *Declaration of Liberated Europe*, he will find that there, too, the Soviet Union consistently refused to promise what it did not intend to fulfill. Its only commitment was to "jointly assist" (along with USA and Britain) in the formation of "interim governmental authorities broadly representative of all democratic elements in the population".

Free elections were to be the responsibility of these "authorities" alone, and Soviet or other "assistance" would be made available only "when, in the opinion of the three governments, conditions... make such action necessary".

There was at one stage, it is true, a State Department proposal which would have committed the Soviet

Union in precisely the way Professor Kempall suggests; but this was rejected by Roosevelt on February 10, 1945, and formed no part either of the *Declaration* or of the Joint Communiqué.

Thus what Yalta did was to make Polish democracy a Soviet option rather than a Soviet commitment. This was clearly deliberate, for if free elections had been held they would presumably have produced a government hostile to communism; and, as Secretary of State Burnes declared on October 31, 1945, "we can appreciate the determination of the people of the Soviet Union that never again will they tolerate the pursuit of policies in these countries deliberately directed against the Soviet Union's security and way of life".

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
The Polytechnic of North London,
Holloway, N7,
March 14.

Soviet curb on welfare gifts

From Lord Cogan and others

Sir, We wish to draw attention, through the courtesy of your columns, to a new clause of Soviet law which came into force on February 1. Its likely effect seems to be to make it difficult, if not impossible, for Soviet citizens to receive material gifts from Western organisations concerned for their welfare.

The clause is a new third part to article 70 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR (Russian Republic), which deals with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", and states that

Actions carried out with the use of money or other material goods received from foreign organisations or persons acting in the interests of such organisations are punishable by deprivation of freedom for up to 10 years, with or without a subsequent five years [internal] exile.

We are deeply concerned lest the new law should increase the already considerable material hardship endured by some members of the Soviet population. Most at risk are the families of prisoners sentenced for the public expression of their political and/or religious convictions.

It is not widely known that these families receive no social security or welfare benefits from the Soviet government. They must depend for their livelihood upon the generosity of families and friends. Others who may be affected include, most notably, the so-called "refuseniks" persons who have applied to emigrate from the USSR, after which they have almost automatically lost their jobs.

Much depends upon the way the new law is to be interpreted. It will be clear from its wording that it does not appear to be an offence for a Soviet citizen to receive a gift from abroad for personal or family use. An offence would occur only if such a gift could be shown to have been used for "anti-Soviet actions". However, the arbitrary and inconsistent manner in which article 70 has been interpreted by Soviet courts in recent years does not augur well.

Receipt of a gift from abroad might well be used as the basis for a charge of intent to engage in "anti-Soviet actions".

A change in the leadership of any country is always a time when new initiatives may be taken, new relationships forged, and new hopes created. We would wish to endorse all the cautiously optimistic statements concerning hopes for a new way forward which have been made recently by major international leaders of both East and West. But we would point out to the new Soviet leadership that it is more difficult for us to do so now than it was before the new clause 3 of article 70 came into force.

Yours sincerely,
COGANN,
JOHN BATH & WELLS,
HUGO GRVY,
DAVID LIVERPOOL,
LESLIE NEWBIGIN,
PATRICK OXON,
JOHN D. RAYNER,
D. S. RUSSELL,
JOHN SARUM,
MICHAEL WOOLWICH,
DAVID WORLOCK,
THOMAS J. WINNING,
As from: House of Lords,
March 16.

Poem in the 'TLS'

From the Editor of The Times Literary Supplement

Sir, It is good to see Roger Scruton denouncing all forms of racial hatred, but he is wrong to think (feature, April 3) Peter Reading's poem "Cub", published recently in the TLS, is antisemitic. If it were, we would not have accepted it.

Like much of Mr Reading's work, "Cub" is a dramatic monologue. The genre often poses problems of interpretation, of a kind Dr Scruton (who is, among other things, a distinguished aesthetician and literary critic) must be aware of.

The title, which he does not mention, is applicable not only to the child who is described as shooting, and then being shot by, Israeli soldiers in the Lebanon war, but to the poem's narrator, a cub reporter working for Reuters.

That much understood, what follows clearly implies a critical (as well as imaginatively sympathetic) comment on the reporter's coarse but intense response to this horrifying incident: a comment, too, on the psychological effects of repeated exposure to such incidents. The phrase "Old Testament shiftness" is used by the reporter of both sides, not just the Israelis.

"Cub" is a complex and powerful poem (not, pace Roger Scruton, a piece of prose: it is written in elegiac couplets, alternating hexameters and pentameters) about a terrible war. I am glad we published it. I am sorry, though, for any offence it has caused to those who, with Dr Scruton's help, have misunderstood it.

Yours,
JEREMY TREGLOWN, Editor
The Times Literary Supplement,
Priory House,
St John's Lane, EC1.

Cooling-off time

From the Headmaster of Chigwell School

Sir, Food wrapped in a damp cloth would certainly drop below room temperature (letter, March 23). So would a soggy sandwich.

Yours truly,
B. J. WILSON, Headmaster,
Chigwell School,
Chigwell,
Essex,
March 28.

THE ARTS

The malevolent image of Merrick in *The Jewel in the Crown* has made Tim Pigott-Smith (right) famous, but *Benefactors*, which opens at the Vaudeville tonight, should soften it somewhat: interview by Peter Lewis

The talent for turning nasty

As Ronald Merrick's unflinching and watchful eyes are laid to rest on television, Tim Pigott-Smith, who conjured up his brooding malevolence so memorably on the screen, is being reborn in a very different character on stage in Michael Frayn's new play, *Benefactors*, which opens at the Vaudeville tonight. He is playing one of Frayn's fastidious Cambridge men, a classics scholar who turns nasty when he gets embroiled in an architectural feud with an old college crony, who builds tower blocks for the local authority.

"A very different type from our Ronnie," says Pigott-Smith, "but, if there is a hard character in this play, he is it." A character, it must be added, to whom Pigott-Smith's sardonic lip-curl and gift for devastating dead-pan sarcasm are particularly appropriate. But this is a delicate role. Frayn's characterization stops short of deep-dyed villainy — especially in a four-handed set of marital manoeuvres in which, as Pigott-Smith puts it, "we are like four climbers roped together on a mountain — if one slips, we all tumble".

The following for *The Jewel in the Crown* has made him, at 37, an instantly recognizable actor with greatly expanded prospects. It has also made him an automatic candidate for future roles as a "mean bastard", which is not by any means what he intends to concentrate on.

His upbringing almost programmed him for an acting career. He grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon, where his father edited the newspaper, and went to Shakespeare's grammar school. He gravitated naturally to the Memorial Theatre, then in its renaissance under Peter Hall, and asked to work for a spell in the paint shop. "What I especially liked was to work on the paint frame, from which

you could look down to the stage and watch rehearsals."

The painting suffered but he was hooked. A drama course at Bristol University and the Old Vic Theatre School followed. He was one of the six students of his year invited to join the Bristol Old Vic company, together with Jeremy Irons and Simon Cadell. Touring with Prospect, he was introduced to major roles in Shakespeare, including playing Laertes to Ian McKellen's Hamlet, which reached the West End. His RSC years then began. They culminated in going on as Coriolanus for Nicol Williamson, but the commercial success of the time was *Sherlock Holmes*, in which he was cast as an unusually young Doctor Watson. But when the New York run finished, he returned to find that the RSC no longer required him.

"I had to make another career, in rep and on television, but I was deprived of my ambition, which was to graduate to bigger parts in Shakespeare." Television work built up to the point that, in the last six years, he has become exclusively a television actor. Meanwhile he read *The Rag Quartet*, Christopher Marlowe was a friend, but he had not yet succeeded in setting up such a huge production. "He said to me 'I know what part you want to play' and he was right. I saw Merrick as a marvellous part, but I did not dare suggest myself at that stage. I think I got the part because I had to die of cancer of the jaw in *The Last Boys* and they thought I could cope with Merrick's injuries."

People who have wondered how he managed to act with half of his face apparently paralyzed may be reassured that no medical aids, such as numbing injections, were employed to produce that unnerving twitch of a half-smile. "The brilliant make-up

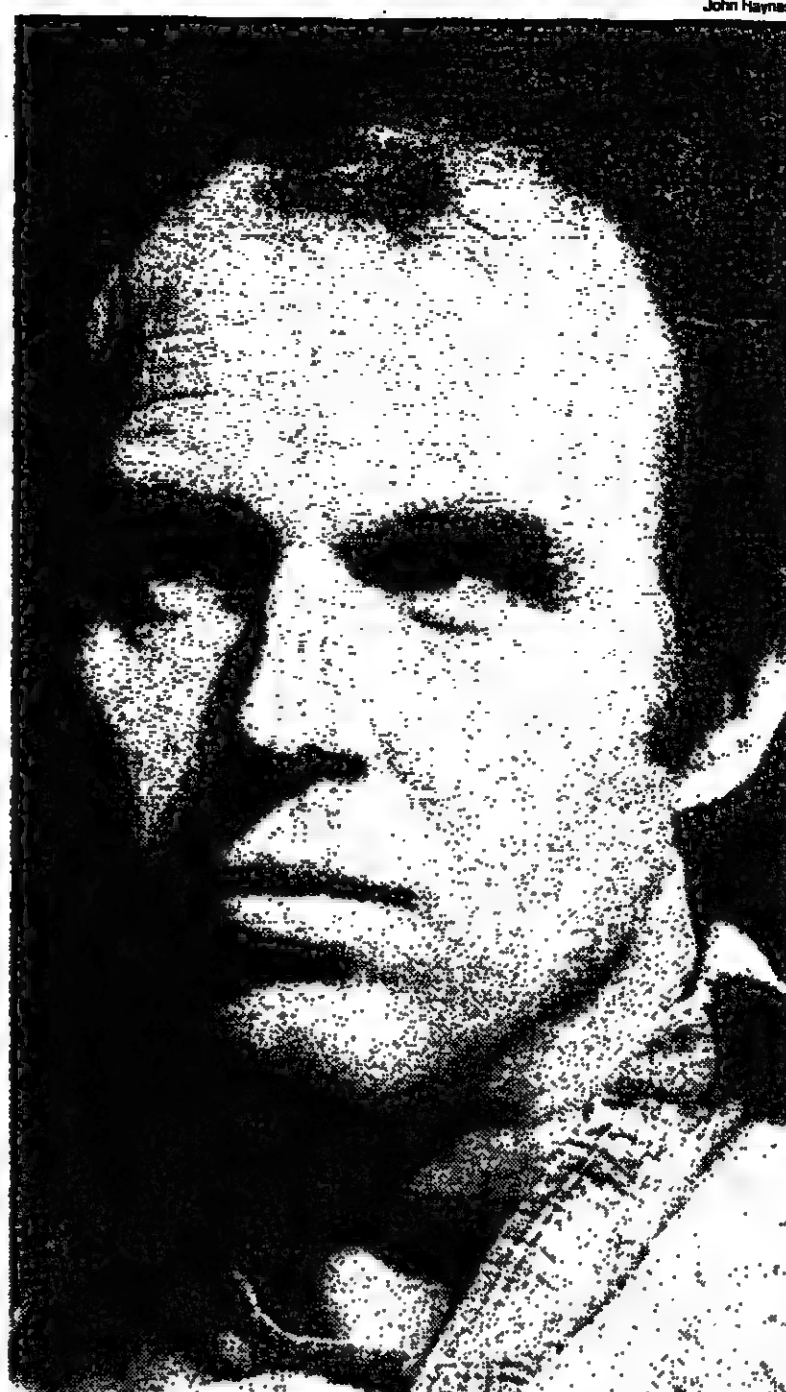
helped me to keep one eyelid drooping, but the mouth was done by thinking about it, really. I had two and a half hours in front of the make-up mirror each day."

Merrick's character was not so straightforwardly hateful to him as it at first appeared. "I drew on memories of a schoolmaster I intensely disliked, a man who bullied you but always made it appear that his abuse of power was just. But I tried to win Merrick a bit of sympathy on occasions. He's a victim of circumstances, doing what he believes to be right."

"Many people have said, or written to say, that they recognize Merrick. That's because he is written with such frightening accuracy. One of the things Paul Scott was knocking was the moral self-righteousness of the British. After 300 years of the Raj, the ruling caste would have come to despise their subjects, even if they had been white."

"It was the pivotal role and I was very keen to play it, but then you start to worry, of course. We had to wait nine months after shooting to see how it would go down and we all became more and more jumpy and nervous. Nervous that it wouldn't live up to our hopes. What we were really doing was trying to analyze some pretty recent history on television. But, as far as the reception was concerned, our hopes were exceeded."

Like his friend Jeremy Irons, he is aware of the danger of being identified with an outstanding television series role. "I was keen to get back to the theatre after six years. It's the ultimate yardstick. Anyone can get a scene more or less right after fifty takes. And in the theatre you can't blame the lighting cameraman for your shortcomings. You're answerable only to yourself."

Television
Singing for death

Breyten Breytenbach still feels very close to his elder brother, who was the first to instil in him a love for painting, music and literature. At an early stage their ways parted. He recalls their worst argument, which ended with his brother saying that the bravest thing young Breyten could do would be to kill him, at which point "I just cracked and ran away. If he were given the order to eliminate me... I don't know what he would do." (pause) "I think he would do so."

The trouble is that, while Breyten's brother is an Afrikaner hero much admired by the brainwashed thugs (black as well as white) who act as "killing machines" for the government, Breyten himself is a dedicated Afrikaner traitor.

Last year he was released after seven years' incarceration, first in the pleasantly named Beverly Hills prison (where people were periodically hanged in batches) and then in a prison for common criminals where torture and rape were the norm, and ritual murder was not uncommon.

Reading from his new novel, Breytenbach's words tumble out at anxious speed. Recalling the real things he has heard (for long periods he hardly saw his fellow-prisoners, except for their feet as they climbed to the gallows), he speaks swiftly but more deliberately, delineating a world more dreadful than anything outside hard-core sadomasochistic fantasy.

He talks of "people chanting their death, singing their death, helping one another by singing continuously". He remembers the guards coming down from the scaffold to wash their hands, sometimes white and vomiting, sometimes grimly joking about their victims' last agonies.

He tells of the lengths to which prisoners will go to vary their routine — having all their teeth out, or poisoning a lamb for the pleasure of a holiday in hospital. Some, when in cheerful mood, paint sparrows the colour of canaries, to add a touch of class. Breytenbach himself paints in the manner of Francis Bacon.

He is frightened of those guards, whose power is absolute. "You have to win your life moment by moment, trying not to push them over the edge." They are apparently very bad at containing their paranoid anger. Most of South Africa's prison deaths, he thinks, are due to accidents of this sort. His documentary account of these experiences is due out later this year. Meanwhile, Nigel Williams's film for Arena (BBC 2) will do very well, in a manner of speaking.

The king in King (BBC 1) was actually Lear, until the point, 40 minutes in, when this became apparent. Barrie Keeffe's play about a Jamaican train driver at the moment of his retirement had been so slow and predictable that only duty had kept me glued to the set.

Thereafter, however, nothing could have torn me away. The kingdom was a terrace house in Bristol; Cordelia was a nurse; Goneri and Regan were represented by a good-time girl; a guinea yard doubled up as the blasted heath.

Why was it so powerful? Nothing to do with the heavy lolly message. The key lay in Thomas Baptiste's splendid acting, in the convincing local twits, and in the way the original Lear story resonated in the background, like thunder.

Michael Church

Theatre
Checking Out

Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

Two-character plays, from *Uncle Vanya* to *When the Wind Blows*, travel well these days and no agent could guide a playwright into lusher pasture. I am not sure about this one: Marcella Evaristi is a good name, but *Checking Out* has a spun-out, first-draft feel about it, even if it finally focuses on women's predicaments with an incisiveness and warmth of heart that show her particular touch. That touch can be very heavy too at times, and Alpin Smart's capably-written songs only slow the piece further instead of enriching it.

The three-piece hand plays amidst palms at the back of Caroline Beaver's two-bedded set, unmistakably a hotel from its fancy wall-bending. Here Glaswegian chambermaids, waitress Elaine Collins and ripely assured Terry Neeson, forge a friendship whose balance shifts over the next two hours.

The novice looks on as the sophisticated lets her engagement ring and her knowledge of London sparkle enviably. Neither can know that Miss Collins's idea of bugging guests' bedrooms to broaden her experience will start them on a spiral of job-hopping through painfully educative territory.

During the heavily padded first act even a fly on the wall would have buzzed off to read the fire drill. Then one of the tapes records marital rape. Her feminist consciousness gains ground while her sexier friend progresses from nude modelling through posing on car bonnets at the Motor Show to a horseriding degradation as a hostess-stripper.

Miss Neeson, whose most



Waifish and ripely assured: Elaine Collins (left) and Terry Neeson

obvious strength is full-throated anger, takes well to the role of this buoyant victim, insisting on her own liberation while employed only as a sex-object and deserted by one lover after another.

Meanwhile Miss Collins, whom she deliciously compares to a Hitchcock child innocently trailing havoc, never lets go, and when she finally cracks, is beside her with a Women Against Porn leaflet and an offer of a late supper that inaugurates true liberation.

Only these last scenes give the actresses, and Chris Parr's production, something to work with. The Evaristi irony rings through Miss Neeson's brave description of spitting up with a lover (better than Weight-watcher), of stripping behind glass for a slaving punter or of a man (her fiancé, in fact) who notches his lays on the bedroom wall. But why use the theatre for what would make a punchy 45 minutes on television?

Anthony Masters

Shangri-La
ICA

What became of Manderley when the ashes cooled? For their new ICA show, *Hesitate and Demonstrate* imagine this prime seaview site converted to a holiday camp, and Mr and Mrs Max de Winter re-enacting the romance of *Rebecca* in a parody of their original habitat. Whether it is the butler Frith or a grinning redcoat (played by the same actor) intimidating the young bride, Manderley is still a place of rule and ritual.

Maxim converts their cabin to a bridal bower with festoons of pink lavatory paper, and spreads a feast of crisps and sandwiches of Babyham. The girl's classic Freudian slip on the phone ("Mrs de Winter is dead") becomes a bleak "no-one here" on the Ansafone.

This bizarre scenario is well calculated for performance art, which delights in evocation (often using a continuous soundtrack) and, rather incongruously, in detailed symbolism. When these things are pursued for their own sake, you get something that looks as though it ought to be a work of art, but does not achieve very much: images constantly referring backwards and forwards as though in a poem, but without a poem's sense of purpose.

The Shangri-La motif appears in a tea ceremony contrasted with Manderley breakfast in snapshots of *Madam Butterfly* and the girl's silk skirt. The shark where Rebecca is shot becomes an oriental wendy-house and the skirt, neatly doubling as her successor's faux-pas fancy dress, keeps reappearing.

What is not clear, apart from when Manderley is forcibly drowned by Maxim for apples, is what emerges from it all; but at least his second marriage is just as romantic as Butlin's as in continental exile.

Anthony Masters

Symphony on Ice
Albert Hall

The Albert Hall has always looked to me as if designed to be a skating rink, but at the opening of the John Curry Skating Company's show on Monday the newly installed ice obviously suffered from first-night nerves. At the advertised starting time, it looked better suited to *Swan Lake* than *Les Patineurs*, but Curry himself quietened any alarm by arriving on the orchestra platform to announce that it would be ready for them to start half an hour late.

The unprecedented addition of an encore from the Royal Philharmonic before the show helped to fill the gap, but the surface remained recalcitrant all evening. Bonus points all round

for the courage of all the performers who managed to stay smiling while executing daredevil stunts on a visibly corrugated layer of audibly thin ice. Curry himself must, with that addition, score at least nine out of six, because, with all due respect to younger competition, he remains an unequalled star among ice dancers.

He has also now succeeded in developing a team of colleagues who share his responsiveness to music and his way of moving like a dancer who skates rather than a skater who dances: body well pulled up, limbs well extended, everything elegant and open.

Curry has choreographed most of the numbers but has brought in three other choreographers. Jean-Pierre Bonnefous provides a couple of workmanlike but too balletic pieces, and Laura Dean shows

that her familiar circling dances work better on ice than on stage. Best of all is *Tungu Tangu*, in which Peter Martins has devised first a mean solo for Curry to Stravinsky, then a brilliantly witty duet for Curry and Jojo Starbuck to "Jealousy".

Gershwin's syncopation seems outside Curry's choreographic range, but apart from that he proves to have developed an impressively assured skill in creating dances that are very varied use, in different musical contexts, of the special skills of skaters: the extremes of speed, the bravura partnering.

Several of the other skaters have solos or duets, notably a Russian dance for David Sanjiv, Glueck's "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" for Patricia Dodd, and the Meditation from *Thais* for Catherine Foulkes

and Mark Hominuke. There is also an amusing ensemble for five men to an extract from Copland's *Rodeo*.

Teamwork is strong all evening, and the general standard high, but Curry himself emerges effortlessly, without any need for a special build-up, as the undisputed star, thanks to the exceptional beauty of his style and technique. Perhaps the happiest moments of the show are those when his individual contribution and the shared effort of the others blend seamlessly. The outstanding example is the big number that opens the second half, to music from *The Nutcracker*. The smoothness of movement, the rapid concentration of the whole company, and Curry's absolute dedication to his art become astonishingly touching.

John Percival

Dance
Curry remains an unequalled starConcert
Romantic minimalism all too lightKoenig Ensemble
St John's/ Radio 3

A treble helping of treble music was on the menu for Monday's BBC Lunchtime Concert, beginning with Mozart's ethereal musical glasses quartet, ending with Schoenberg's top-heavy Chamber Symphony, Op 9, and including in the middle a new *Light Sonata*, self-consciously bright in sonority, by one Marco Tutino. Milanese and 30 this year, Mr Tutino has yet to make any international reputation, and, if this was a fair sample of his work, then the

need for the BBC to press a commission upon him was not exactly overwhelming.

Apparently the title was intended to refer not only to transparency of sound but also to lack of weight, in which case the epithet was just, and to a certain extent in light music: the idea, estimable in itself, was to sign an official form in the sonata for elements of rhythm and harmony taken over from the unofficial world of "new wave" rock. What we heard, though, was romantic minimalism, a flicker of repeating patterns in a 12-minute flux of three short movements that found some wan middle ground

between Philip Glass and Henze. Otherwise the nearest model would seem to have been *Petruška* rather than anything more extraordinary, let alone more new.

The Mozart piece was done with a celesta replacing the original glass harmonica, and so instead of Goethe's "heartbeat of the world" we heard the twinkles of the Sugar Plum Fairy: an electronic synthesizer could surely provide the requisite Aeolian vibrations much more satisfactorily. The Schoenberg also sounded a little odd, but for more interesting reasons. Jan Latham-Koenig, conducting, avoided bringing

out Schoenberg's procrusteanism and instead accepted the music as brittle in texture, fractured in design, spasmodic in movement, a puppet sonata rather than the portrait of a mind on the edge of madness.

My praise for the "sardonic Kutuzov" in Monday's notice of *War and Peace* at the Coliseum went to the wrong artist. The role was sung by Norman Bailey. My apologies.

Paul Griffiths

The closing days of the Adelaide Festival brought the Adelaide-based Australian Dance Theatre to the main stage of the Festival Centre for the first time. Since their successful visit to Edinburgh in 1980 and their 1982 season at Sadler's Wells, they have undergone an almost complete change of dancers. With perhaps more during than sense they chose to present three world premieres on the same evening. It proved an uncomfortably-balanced programme, further affected by the fact that one of the new works was in every way superior to the other two.

Barry Morland's *Palestra* was a rapid, trendy piece in which male dancers in flesh-coloured athletic supports flicked towels at each other to the accompaniment of the Elliott Carter Piano Sonata (will they never learn?). Jonathan Taylor's *For Ever and Ever* was a passionately-felt but confusingly-staged drama set in a nuclear bunker and danced to Penderecki's *Magnificat*. It made more impact through its designs, by Peter Mumford, and its atmospheric lighting than through the unremitting violence of the choreography.

However, the work at the centre of the programme was by Glen Tetley and here instantly was a different world of both choreography and theatre. Entitled *Revelation and Fall*, it uses Peter Maxwell Davies's score of the same name, excellently sung by the Australian soprano Marilyn Richardson. The expressionist imagery of Trakl's prose-poem was not

linked literally to the dance. Rather it took its life from a sentence in *The White Goddess* by Robert Graves: "Myth begins in the blasted landscape where the God of the Dying Year and God of the Rising Year struggle for the love of the Muse and their elusive quarry the snow-white deer".

The blasted landscape, quite beautifully realized by the designer Michael Pearce, consisted of two sharp hills, white and black splashed surfaces suggested rocks emerging through melting snow under a great billowing cloudscape. The epic mood was established at once. How satisfying it is to see the simplicity with which this choreographer suggests

inner life, thought and feeling. From the start Guy Delot as the Old God and Simone Clifford as the Muse drew one into a timeless world of inevitability and emotional force. The replacement of the Old God by the Young — a brilliant performance by Robert Canning — and their pursuit of the White Deer, danced by Margaret Wilson, watched and nurtured by the Muse, was all the story of action. There were occasional overtones of *Apollon* but above all there was the brooding intensity of earlier Tetley pieces like *Mythical Hunters*. It was thrilling to see how only four dancers could people a vast stage with the power of personality and feeling. *Revelation and Fall* is Tetley at his very best.

A similar impact was made in quite a different way earlier in the festival by the remarkable Raun Raun Theatre of Papua New Guinea. Here a company of nearly thirty actors, dancers and musicians presented in pidgin English a version of the Trobriand Island Creation Myths devised by the contemporary poet John Kasaipwalua, in two parts entitled *Sail the Midnight Sun* and *My Tide Let Me Ride*. Joy was the emotion these productions aroused most powerfully. The young performers, brought together from many different tribes and communities, pooled their different theatrical traditions in a piece of modern theatre which still kept close to the roots of a society, it was performed in the open air under the stars.

Tuned logs, drums, flutes, the eerie sound of the conch and rhythmic chanting came from the trees behind the stage. The performers rushed out of the darkness to share, so it felt, with the audience their pleasure and excitement in the stories they were telling. At one moment the mother brought on stage first a babe in arms, then a small child, then a youth, to symbolize the growing up of the hero Niugini. Each time she slowly circled the stage, pausing to look in wonder at the real

Adelaide Festival
Revelation of Glen Tetley at his best

look in wonder at the real

look in wonder at the real

"A picture needs as much trickery as a crime"

DEGAS
Put the pictures to the words at the National Gallery

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A new competition policy from Norman Tebbit

The Government is about to launch a series of initiatives designed to give fresh impetus to its competition policy - and set Mr Norman Tebbit's stamp on the development of economic strategy. A statement ending the present uncertainty about the role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected shortly, followed by a series of separate attacks on different areas of monopoly power in the economy.

The Trade and Industry Secretary will confirm the continued existence of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, operating under blurred banner of the "public interest". The Government approves of the flexibility this allows in relation to important takeovers, both in the commission's deliberations and in the Trade and Industry Secretary's use of his discretion. However, there will be some pretty firm definition of "the public interest", designed to make plain it lies in the direction of greater competition.

This raises some interesting questions about the Government's attitude to foreign takeovers, particularly of City institutions. The Governor of the Bank of England last month made it a little too plain that he would take a different attitude to a takeover of, say, an insurance company than to foreign control of a top British bank. In the eyes of the Department of Trade and Industry, the division is not so crude: for any institution, the burden of proof rests on those seeking to keep foreigners out.

A clear new lease of life for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will please the Confederation of British Industry, which has been waiting somewhat impatiently for the Trade and Industry Secretary's long-awaited statement. Many of the Government's subsequent moves will not earn it so many friends. The long overdue review of monopolistic practices in the professions is likely to be stepped up. Building societies are another obvious target for further attention by the Department of Trade and Industry, but insurance companies can breathe easier.

The most tantalising target is the Stock Exchange, from which the DTI last year withdrew its legal barriers. On the DTI plate now is the Gower report on investor protection. The DTI has pencilled in legislation for 1985-86, after it has seen the results of the Cork report through parliament, but would like the substance of the bill to emerge from the City.

In other words, the Government would like to see the City prove its self-regulating abilities by putting forward proposals (on issues not necessarily confined to investor protection), allowing the civil servants relatively easy task of laying the legislative coping-stone on a City edifice. A revamped Council for the Securities Industry could be the architect of such a construction.

The changing gilt edged market

Monday sees yet another structural change in the gilt market, as commissions at the long end of the market are trimmed. But what starts life as a small backward step for brokers' income - and perhaps the price of half-timbered Tudors in Woking - may herald a giant forward stride toward a radically different gilt-edged market in five years' time. When the changes are complete, it is hard to imagine that the present system of selling government debt, which has lasted roughly since the French Revolution, will survive intact.

The net effect of the commission changes should be small, affecting only bargains worth more than £250,000. The cost of dealing in £1m worth of long falls from £1,286.25 to £1,098.75; in £5m from £4,786.25 to £4,198.75; and for £10m from £7,286.25 to £6,198.75. But in 1982, the last full year for which figures are available, gilts turnover for stocks over five years and undated was worth £103 billion, and totalled 760,000 bargains. Perhaps the City's charmed circle of gilt brokers is not being asked to surrender too much at first bite.

The commission cuts, however, will serve as a reminder that the countdown to Big Bang time, when fixed commissions are scrapped completely, has begun. Under the present timetable, deregulation will not take place before the autumn of 1985, and theoretically should have been completed by the end of 1986.

Until then, the current system will stay in operation. The Government Broker will continue to sell debt on behalf of the Government and the Bank of England; three firms of brokers, Mullens, Fember and Boyle and Grievson Grant will continue to account for some 30 per cent of all business; and just over 10 firms will transact about three-quarters of all the business.

But not indefinitely, judging by the common thread running through recent link-ups between financial institutions. The Greenwell/Montagu/Midland deal and the Barclays/Wedderburn/Zoete groupings are similar insofar as they give gilt traders access if they want it to broad retail markets, through the banks' branch networks.

Clive Discounts decision to job in selective gilts, and Kleinwort Benson's acquisition for £19m of a primary dealer in US bonds are also linked in that they signal a shift by United Kingdom institutions into market making. The Bank of England has been shrewd over the years in keeping alive an embryonic market-making structure in the shape of the discount market, and the National Savings Department started something, when it proved capable of selling gilts by the billion direct to the public.

Assuming that the gilt-edged market's orientation switches from wholesale to retail, and that the embargo on private partnerships' boarding capital (which effectively has prevented them in the past from becoming market makers) is lifted by banking connexions, then the system of selling debt is bound to come under scrutiny. Again the new mechanisms exist in embryo. Engineering a change in the method of selling debt could be done quite quickly, were the discount houses weekly tender for £100m of Treasury bills expanded. A wider range of market makers could tender quite easily, New York style, for anything up to £1 billion a week - roughly the size of the daily money market shortages - if the Bank of England offered a portfolio of debt, including short, medium and long-dated gilts, as well as Treasury bills.

But if the present system does go - and the authorities stress that anything can happen - spare a thought for the Government Broker, Mr Nigel Althaus and Mullens. Suddenly, they will cease being the cynosure of market eyes, and revert to being just another broking firm. The Government's best friend among brokers surely deserves a better fate.

Tempos, page 18

Test of Britoil's loyalty factor

The small investors who valiantly parted with their savings to buy shares in the embarrassing Britoil floatation 17 months ago appear to be more resilient than the Government perhaps deserves. Britoil's annual report and accounts provides a detailed breakdown of the share register, and it makes interesting reading. At the end of last year 37,924 individuals held shares in the company, 27,000 of whom held fewer than 1,000 shares. Together they accounted for 5 per cent of the total share capital.

When the issue was launched in November 1982, there were 35,424 applications from private investors, all of whom, naturally, received all they had asked for (70 per cent of the shares were left with the underwriters). Plenty of shares will have been traded between the time of issue and the end year "snapshot" in the report and accounts, but it is a safe assumption that the two groups are by and large the same people. Most have hung on to their shares and resisted the temptation to cut their losses when the share price dipped last year. The Government's one for ten free offer to small investors who retain their original shares until next November (three years after the issue) has evidently proved a potent force.

It will be interesting to see how many small investors are still in evidence at the end of this year now that the share price has established some sort of permanent looking premium over the 215p issue price. Last night they closed at 245, not enough to make profit-taking irresistible.

Stanley Gibbons faces writ for £45,000 from dealer

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Paul Urch of Urch Holdings, an independent stamp dealing business in Bristol, said yesterday that his company had a £45,000 claim against Stanley Gibbons Holdings which was not disclosed in its prospectus.

Mr Urch is a member of the family which set up Urch Harris in the 1960s and then sold the business to Stanley Gibbons. He has been an independent stamp dealer since 1977. He said yesterday that he had issued a writ in Bristol Crown Court, which was acknowledged by Stanley Gibbons on 19 December 1983, claiming £45,000 against the company for inducing a breach of contract.

"It is not a question of the validity of the claim, just the fact that it is a court document which has been acknowledged

by them but which was not disclosed in the prospectus."

However, Mr David Stokes, Stanley Gibbons managing director yesterday refuted Mr Urch's claims and said: "The claim Paul Urch is talking about was fully disclosed to our lawyers when we drafted the prospectus. The only reason that it would not have appeared is on legal advice." He added that he could recall correspondence with Mr Urch but not a formal claim being made.

Mr Urch said the claim related to a contract he had to supply stamps to two South Africans which his firm had held for two years. He said that Stanley Gibbons took over the South Africans' business and he was subsequently shut out. His claim also includes action in

South Africa totalling about £60,000 relating to bad debts which affected the trading of his company.

He had intended to make details of his claim public when he first saw the prospectus but delayed on legal advice. He said: "It's been on my mind for some time. I was going to issue a statement to the Philatelic Traders Society but was advised not to by my solicitors."

This news comes after Monday's embarrassing start to Stanley Gibbons' return to a public quote on the Unlisted Securities Market when the shares were suspended before trading officially began.

Today, Mr Clive Feigenbaum, Stanley Gibbons' chairman, whose past business dealings have led to the

suspension, is standing for readmission to the Philatelic Traders Society which expelled him in 1970. Six leading stamp dealers have said they will resign if he is readmitted.

Stanley Gibbons' shares remained suspended yesterday with no clear indication of when dealings would be allowed to start. Mr Stokes reiterated that the allegations made in the *Sunday Times* about Mr Feigenbaum's connexion with a stamp business which had collapsed less than a year ago had "not affected our confidence in the company."

Mr David Cohen, of Simon & Coates, the stockbrokers which brought Stanley Gibbons to the market said: "We carried out very expensive inquiries prior to accepting sponsorship."

Government sell-offs cost £22m

By Jonathan Davis

The Government's privatization programme has cost it more than £22m in City fees and underwriting commission, Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, disclosed yesterday.

The figures were given in answer to a Parliamentary question by Dr. Coogan McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock, who had asked for a list of the fees and commission paid on six of the Government's most important denationalization measures during the last five years.

These include the five big stock market flotations of publicly owned corporations undertaken by the Government, together with the management buyouts of the National Freight Corporation. The totals listed in the table are the combined cost of the underwriting commission and the fees charged by the stockbrokers, merchant banks and legal advisers in each issue.

The figures provided by Mr Moore do not include however the fees and commission which the Government paid by the two BP share sales in 1979 and last year, nor the costs of the second Cable & Wireless offer last September.

As sales of what were already minority shareholdings, these issues did not result in a shift in the company's ownership from the public to private sector but they are estimated to have earned the City at least another £15m in fees and underwriting commission, to add to the £22m itemized yesterday.

Mr Moore also listed the firms involved in each of the six main privatization issues and last year's second Cable & Wireless offer. These show that Kleinwort Benson and Schroder Wagg have both been involved as primary underwriters in five of the issues, more than any other merchant bank.

COST OF PRIVATIZATION		
	Date	Fees & comm. (£m)
Britoil	1982 11.071	
Cable & Wireless	1981 4.945	
British Aerospace	1981 3.852	
Assoc. Brit. Ports	1983 1.400	
Amersham Int.	1982 1.391	
Nat. Freight	1982 0.235	
TOTAL		22.894

US rate fears hit pound

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Renewed fears that American interest rates are heading higher have knocked the pound and share prices for the second day running yesterday, finally puncturing the heavy post-Budget euphoria of recent weeks.

The FT index of 30 leading shares dropped 11.6 to 859.2 while the pound lost 43 points to \$1.4310 against a stronger dollar. Sterling's effective index against a basket of leading currencies fell 0.1 to 79.7, its lowest level since March 1983.

The pound has been drifting gently downwards against both the dollar and European currencies for the past month or so,

weakened by the cut in bank lending rates, the lifting of the immediate threat of oil supplies from the Gulf war, and the miners' strike. Over the past five weeks it has lost more than 4 per cent of its international value, prompting some Bank of England support in the foreign exchange markets.

The Treasury said yesterday that Britain's official reserves of gold and foreign currencies fell by an underlying \$188 last month - after allowing for foreign borrowings and repayments - which suggests some modest buying of sterling to smooth its decline.

Ministers do not appear to be unduly concerned by the pound's recent weakness.

But if sterling's slide continued and the Government's inflation targets looked endangered, ministers have made clear that interest rates might have to rise.

Yesterday's anxieties on US interest rates were sparked off by a sharp overnight rise in the key federal funds rate, which some analysts took a hint that the Federal Reserve Board - the US central bank - had tightened credit policy to dampen inflationary pressure.

Compromise hopes on Nigerian debts

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Nigerian officials and some of the country's biggest suppliers are to meet in London on Friday in an eleventh hour attempt to avoid a damaging public confrontation over proposals to refinance overdue trade debts.

Formal proposals on refinancing about \$2.5 billion of uninsured trade debts were due to be unveiled today. But S. G. Warburg, advising the Nigerian Government, has been asked to delay release of the proposals, which would have been available simultaneously round the world, so as not to prejudice Friday's discussions.

Branson float plan

By Jeremy Warner

Mr Richard Branson's fast-growing Virgin records and entertainments empire could seek about £20m from stock market investors in the autumn.

The 34-year-old entrepreneur said yesterday that he was considering proposals from Canal Bank for floating his company on the stock market. This is a significant change of heart by Mr Branson who has strongly resisted the idea of going public on the grounds that it would restrict the company's ability to take advantage swiftly of business opportunities.

Mr Branson said: "I have been persuaded that if we

floated 10 per cent on the Unlisted Securities Market it would not interfere too much with the company's flexibility and the financial position of the group would be strengthened."

Virgin, which besides its highly successful pop records business takes in such diverse interests as gay night clubs, feature films and book publishing, is expected to realise a value of up to £200m when floated on the stock market. It made profits last year of £11m on sales of a little more than £100m and another big jump in turnover and earnings is expected this year.

Hanson to sell food at Olympics

By Andrew Cornelius

Hanson Industries, the United States subsidiary of Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust group, has completed a multi-million pound deal for the summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The Volume Services Group, a subsidiary of Interstate Services, Hanson's US food sales business, has won concessions for 375 service points at the Los Angeles Coliseum and sports arena which will be the centre for the main Olympic events.

Sir Gordon White, who heads Hanson Industries, confirmed yesterday that the concession is the largest short-term food and beverage contract in the history of the US.

He estimates that Hanson will sell \$10m (£7.5m) of food and drink during the 16-day event. This contract comes after the company's success in providing food and drinks for the American Superbowl earlier this year which was held at the Tampa Bay stadium.

Interstate already holds important sales concessions at the Coliseum and six other American sports stadia. The company will be adding to existing sales points at the Coliseum for the Olympics and will also be selling beer, soft drinks, hot dogs, health foods, peanuts and a whole range of other food products from mobile points.

Attack on Gower

The City Capital Markets Committee, a group of influential individuals led by Mr Nicholas Baring, the merchant banker, yesterday called for the creation of an Investor Protection Panel to run in parallel with the City Takeover Panel under the aegis of the Council for the Securities Industry.

The Committee, which includes bankers, lawyers and leaders of investment bodies, wants the recommendations of the Gower report on investor protection to be amended to allow a large measure of self-regulation in the City.

In a paper responding to Gower, the committee wants no more than half-a-dozen, self-regulatory agencies accountable to the new investor protection panel. The Department of Trade and Industry should take a correspondingly less active role.

The Stock Exchange Council met yesterday to consider its discussion document on changes in its rules, including the creation of tradeable corporate membership "seats". The document is expected to be published in the next few weeks.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1095.4 down 12.7
 (High: 1101.5 Low: 1095.4)
 FT index 859.2 down 11.2
 FT Gilts 122.66 down 0.36
 Bargains: 31.019
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 112.98 down 1.2
 New York: Dow Jones Average: (closed) 1154.94 up 1.78
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,933.82 down 116.37
 Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1033.19 up 9.23
 Amsterdam: 172.9 down 0.3
 Sydney: AO Index 744.9 down 4.2
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1025.9 up 3.3
 Brussels: General Index 147.07 up 0.35
 Paris: CAC Index 164.5 up 0.4
 Zurich: SBA General 309.2 down 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4310 down 45pts
 Index 79.7 down 0.1
 DM 3.7875 unchanged
 FF 11.49 unchanged
 Yen 321.75 down 0.75
 Dollar Index 128.9 up 0.8
 DM 2.6100 down 0.0122
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.4325
 Dollar DM 2.6120
 INTERCONTINENTAL
 ECU 20.586893
 SDR 0.739425

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 8%
 Finance houses base rate 9%
 Discount market loans week fixed 8%
 3 month interbank 9 - 8%
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10 1/4 - 10%
 3 month DM 6% - 5%
 3 month FF 13 1/4 - 14%
 US rates:
 Bank prime rate 11.50
 Fed funds 10 1/4
 Treasury long bond 8 5/8 - 9 5/8
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 am \$381.15 pm \$380.40
 close \$381.50 - \$381.50 (£256.50 - 226.60)
 New York (latest): \$381.50
 Kruggerand (per coin):
 \$392.75 - \$394.25 (£274 - 276)
 Sovereigns (new):
 \$89.75 - 91.25 (£62 - 64)
 *Excludes VAT

Tripled profits for Christies

Christies International, the fine art auction house, more than tripled its pre-tax profits last year from £3.2m to £9.8m. A final dividend of 6p is being recommended, lifting the total for the year from 7p to 8.5p. The chairman, Mr John Floyd, said that evidence from both London and New York confirms that buoyancy in the international art market is continuing. Tempos, page 18

Riley Leisure, the snooker table manufacturer, snooker club owner and keep-fit equipment supplier, increased pre-tax profits for the 12 months to December, 1983, to £1.87m compared with £878,000 for the 17 months to December 1982. Turnover increased by nearly £10m over the same period to £25.06m. The 2.2p final dividend makes 4.4p for the year. Tempos, page 18

Surprise move after Sierra launch and Vauxhall's advance

Ford of Europe chief steps down

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Mr Edward Blanch, who in a surprise move is stepping down as chairman of Ford of Europe, based in Britain, has during his 20 months in the job seen the launching of the controversial Sierra and an increasingly successful sales drive by Ford's arch-rival, General Motors, with its Opel and Vauxhall subsidiaries.

Ford said Mr Blanch had decided to retire and would remain with the company as a corporate vice-president until the year's end to complete business studies of international markets.

By then Mr Blanch will be within three months of his 59th birthday. Although Ford's re-



Edward Blanch: business studies until year's end

tirement age is still 65 an increasing number of top executives, particularly in the United States, are retiring

earlier, sometimes at about 55, Ford said. Mr Blanch is an American who has been with the company for 32 years.

Mr James Capolongo, president of Ford of Europe, will coordinate the company's activities for the time being. This will be in conjunction with Mr Bob Lutz, executive vice-president for international automotive operations. At 49, Mr Capolongo, who succeeded Mr Blanch as president, is one of the youngest of Ford's corporate vice-presidents.

Mr Blanch was president of Ford of Europe from 1979 until he moved up the chairmanship. He had been a Ford vice-president since 1973.

Ford's Sierra model, the successor to the Cortina, has

been compared unfavourably with its predecessor in maximizing Ford sales. Vauxhall's Cavalier was the best-selling car in Britain during February, while the Sierra was fourth.

But the Sierra in the past year has been consistently in the top five best-selling cars and Ford's Escort, the best selling car in January, has been selling well. The surge in Vauxhall sales has come at a time when big discount offers have been available through dealers with manufacturer backing. But Ford in Britain has so far rejected heavy backing.

In Europe overall last year the Sierra was the fourth most popular car, with a 3.7 per cent market share. The Escort held second position, with a 4.3 per cent market share.

Boddingtons

BODDINGTONS' BREWERIES PLC

Results for the year to 31st December 1983

	1983 (£'000s)	1982 (£'000s)
Turnover	47,701	44,474
Profit before tax	9,095	8,609
Profit after tax	5,082	4,653
Dividend payment per share	2.64p	2.40p

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. Ewart Boddington:

- Net profit rose by 7.6% after allowing for a non-recurring profit of £300,000 in 1982, arising from accounting policy changes connected with the Oldham Brewery acquisition.
- Oldham Brewery's profit contribution increased at a substantial and satisfactory rate.
- Capital investment during the year reached a record level of £6.29m of which almost £5m was spent on improvements and additions to the licensed estate.
- Market share fully maintained.
- Demand for our locally-brewed cask-conditioned beers remains strong.
- Despite difficult trading conditions in the North West we look forward to another year of continued progress.

Annual General Meeting, Midland Hotel, Manchester, 11.45 a.m. Friday 4th May.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from: The Company Secretary, P.O. Box 331, Strangeways Brewery, Manchester M60 3EL.

Boddingtons Strangeways Brewery Manchester



By Derek Pain

Gilts

tickety-boo. Longs lost ½ point on Monday, and the attrition continued yesterday, with a bell wether stock like Exchange 15 per cent 1997 shedding about ½ point to close at 126½.

Poor reserve figures for March were partly to blame. The underlying fall in the

Nervous gilt cynics were quick to point out that sterling on the trade-weighted basis fell about 4 per cent last month. The further fall in reserves stemming from the quarterly gold revaluation of nearly \$1bn, taking the figure below

February construction spending in the United States was up by nearly 7 per cent, confirming the boom picture

confirming the boom picture created by buoyant housing starts, and the March purchasing managers survey, half of whom are now now chattering about the higher prices they see. Salomon Brothers' latest epistle on United States points

The Fed could always turn market confidence by coupon pass manoeuvres, essentially buying support operations, but there were no signs on Monday of the United States authorities

in the market. The Fed's protracted absence from the market in New York will do nothing to boost confidence in London, and in the meantime United Kingdom rates are edging up; six month London interbank is now $\frac{1}{4}$ point up from March 14, date of the last note.

base rate cuts.

Christies and the gentle art of tripling profits

of Riley's prospects than its dizzy high, it is low enough to encourage more than an active interest from outside.

Gilts

Gilt decouplers are having a thin time of it this week, as the feeling spreads that not everything in the market is quite as tuckey-bo. Long lost ½ point on Monday, and the auction continued yesterday, with a bell wether stock like Exchequer 15 per cent 1997 shedding about ½ point to close at 102½.

Poppy reserve figures for

Sales in the United States exceeded those in Britain for the first time in 1983. With the strong dollar this was of double

Nervous gilt cynics were quick to point out that sterling on the trade-weighted basis fell about 4 per cent last month. The further fall in reserves stemming from the quarterly gold revaluation of nearly \$1bn, taking the figure below \$17bn recalled desperate days

But events in the United States also cast a giant shadow. As the market opened, Fed funds shot ahead to 10½ per cent, while the long bond fell a further ¼ to 95½.

was up by nearly 7 per cent, confirming the boom picture created by buoyant housing starts, and the March purchasing managers survey, half of whom are now chattering about the higher prices they


group sold more of what it handled.

see, Salomon Brothers' latest epistle on United States points out that private short term credit demands are well ahead of schedule, and now rival the magnitude of end-of-expansion booms.

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edging up; six month London interbank is now $\frac{1}{4}$ point up from March 14, date of the base rate cuts.

[illegible]



SOMETIMES YOU NEED A FUND OF IMAGINATION, AS WELL AS FUNDS.

There are many sources of investment finance. But how many of them are also a source of inspiration? At 3i we can, in all modesty, claim to be both. Which is why a meeting with us is invariably a creative, as well as financial, experience.

As a private sector company, there isn't a stuffed shirt among us. As businessmen, we know business backwards. And as financiers, we're always looking forwards. So it's hardly surprising that we love a good challenge. And why not?

Within the 3i group, we deal with large projects and are prepared to back any one company with up to £35m or more; we have ICFC, whose understanding of small companies' problems is unique; and our Ventures Division who specialise in high-technology businesses.



To date we have successfully supported over 8,000 businesses, from small-scale family to major multinational companies.

Together we couldn't go wrong. Because they used their imagination. And we used ours.

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing three people riding bicycles. The person in the center is wearing a helmet and is the most prominent. The image is grainy and has a stark, almost graphic quality.

Tatum: half-man, half-horsepower

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND FACE N IRELAND FOR LAST TIME IN BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Night of nostalgia for all but the men in charge

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

One of Britain's oldest traditions will die tonight, at the age of 102. England and Northern Ireland meet each other in the home international for the last time and the outcome at Wembley, if not the score, should be the same as when they were first introduced, in Belfast in 1882. England won 1-0.

The occasion may be coated with memories of the past but those involved are themselves solely to the future. Billy Ringham, the present Irish manager, can look in both directions. He made his last appearance for his country at Wembley 21 years ago in the first full international to be illuminated by floodlights. England won 8-3.

Now he and his counterpart, Bobby Robson, are standing together at the gateway to Mexico. Drawn in the same qualifying group, they will be guiding their sides towards a substantially larger prize, a place in the World Cup finals, when they meet again in February and November next year and Bingham is prepared to concede any psychological advantage that may be gained.

"This is not a dress rehearsal for those games," he said, "I'll

never change and I'm dying to win but I'll be content with a draw and a narrow defeat would not upset me. My main concern is how we perform and my main priority is our first World Cup tie in Finland at the end of next month.

England, who also open against the Finns in October, have more time to spare and have more to prove. Although experience, ability and class all lie heavily in their favour, Robson admitted as much yesterday. "It looks a good side on paper," he said, "but I've told the players that paper teams don't win anything."

England's individual strength should be overwhelming but there are more than a few flaws in Robson's choice. The full backs are both relatively old "newcomers", Kennedy, aged 29, wins his first cap and Anderson, 27, last appeared against Iceland almost two years ago. One central defender, Butcher, has grown accustomed to defeat at Ipswich Town and the other, Roberts, has looked comfortable only once in his three previous internationals.

The midfield is mercifully more balanced than the top side's mess that was bemused by the French but they must pick

up threads that are 18 months old. It was then, during the opening European championship tie in Denmark, that Rix last played a full game and that Bryan Robson and Wilkins, club colleagues at Manchester United, were last paired together for their country.

Misgivings about England's latest formation, which amounts almost to a reformation, are scattered across recent history and Robson must hope that they are not renewed when tonight's nostalgic event is over. The collective strength of the Irish, as the West Germans will confirm, remains another elderly tradition that refuses to die.

ENGLAND: Shilton (Southampton), V. Anderson (Aston Villa), G. Roberts (Tottenham), J. Butcher (Ipswich), A. Kennedy (Liverpool), S. Lee (Liverpool), R. Williams (Man. Utd.), B. Robson (Man. Utd.), G. Rix (Aston), T. Francis (Sampdoria), A. Woodcock (Aston), D. Watson (Norwich), J. Gregory (QPR), J. Walsh (Luton), J. Barnes (Watford).
NORTHERN IRELAND: (Probable): J. Platt (Birmingham), J. Nicholson (Rangers), J. McClelland (Rangers), J. McSherry (Bolton), M. Donaghy (Luton), G. Armstrong (Rushmore), M. O'Neill (Wolves), W. Hamilton (Barnley), (Substitutes): M. U. Wilson (Stoke), J. Stewart (Rangers), R. Bridges (Dundee), Chycki.



Have fun might be Bingham's message to Hamilton (Photograph: Chris Cole).

Francis has three objectives as he teams up again with Woodcock

Senior partners' Wembley reunion

Trevor Francis tonight plays his forty-second match for England during a 10-year international career. In that time he has had nine different partners up front and, other than the five World Cup finals with Paul Mariner, has only once had the same partner consecutively.

Even allowing for the matter of injuries, to Francis himself and to others, this enormous fluctuation in the front line to some extent epitomizes the disturbingly changing mood of the last three England managers, Revie, Greenwood and Robson. Tonight's reunion with Francis's favourite partner, Tony Woodcock, is as important for the manager as it is for both players.

One of the more knowledgeable English club managers observed recently that Robson's problem over two seasons has not been so much the variation of players as of system; that he seemingly is still not sure how he wants to play as well as whom. It is therefore at least encouraging that Robson should be heard to say yesterday that the team had to play to suit the front two, with the rather obvious comment that neither "is a Withe or a Mariner".

What has unsettled many England teams since Robson took charge has been the switching from different formations, with or without one or even two wingers, with or without a forward target, whether to play the ball on the ground or in the air. This basic issue, of the present or any England team, was central to Francis's thoughts on his future when discussing that before he knew if he was selected. Reflecting that he and Woodcock - with whom he played effectively against Spain in 1980 immediately before the European championships and his Achilles injury - seemed so compatible, Francis stresses that any success depends ultimately on the midfield players behind them and the service coming through as much as on their own evasion of defenders.

It is remarkable that Francis has played so regularly for England, yet has never

been regarded, by manager or public as permanent: ironically until perhaps now, when there is such a shortage of international players and when he is all too frequently injured.

Tonight he is on his mettle with three objectives at stake. He will wish to prove to Robson that, although he is 30 this month, he is still a candidate for the 1986 World Cup finals (and for helping to convince Sampdoria that he is fully fit and worth retaining for a third season, after controversially being taken off on Sunday against Udinese. And he must persuade watching English clubs that should Sampdoria let him go, he still has some of the brilliance which made him the most dangerous forward since Greaves.

Even with the money he has earned in



Francis will be on his mettle tonight

Italy he will still need a job next season.

He is optimistic that all three ambitions are reasonable, even though he has played only two and a half matches in Italy after a nine-week absence with a foot injury, the culmination of two troubled seasons since he quit Manchester City.

"I don't think age is all that important," he said yesterday. "Players such as Scorfano, Zico and Juninho, of Brazil, are all around 30. If I could get a clear run without injury, and be in the England team consistently, I think the manager has the confidence in me to use me for another couple of years. I've no problem at the moment with speed, I'm just lacking match practice. Without injuries I'm as fit as anyone and I certainly still want to be around in 1986."

Although it seems likely that Liam Brady will be departing from Sampdoria, any possible bidders for Bryan Robson? - Francis is hopeful that Paolo Mantovani, the club president, whose opinion is the only one which counts, will keep him. The signs are not encouraging. "I've spoken with him quite often recently, although not about re-signing. There are so many stories going around that I will not be staying, but Mantovani is on record as saying that he likes me and the way I play. I love it in Italy, I like the game there and it's being depressing from the playing point of view that I've had so many problems with injury."

He is emphatic that if his contract is not renewed he will return to England because another change of country or language would not be fair on his family. If tonight and in the remainder of England's fixtures this season, including the South America tour, he can recapture something of his old form, then there should not be a shortage of first division clubs prepared to give him a short term contract if he is available.

David Miller

Belgium's team cut in half

Brussels (Reuters) - Suspensions imposed after an inquiry into the Standard Liege bribery scandal will deprive Belgium of five key players around 30, if a mid-fielder, a defender, a forward and a goalkeeper.

The suspensions apply only to the Belgian Soccer Federation. Chief, Louis Wouters, to discuss the situation, but Wouters has made it clear that banned players will not be used in France to avoid further damage to the country's reputation.

In February the Brussels public prosecutor said that Gerets and two standard officials had admitted paying about £3,500 to secure victory over Waterschei and the national title on the final day of the 1981-82 season.

Standard were fined about £16,000 and their officials, Roland Peit (chairman) and Raymond Goethals (manager) were banned for life from any post in Belgian football. A Waterschei player, Roland Goethals, who admitted receiving the money from Gerets, was suspended for two years: three of his colleagues were suspended for a year, and one for six months; nine were fined.

The suspensions apply only to Belgium, although Gerets, who plays for AC Milan, has been suspended by them. Belgian newspapers generally backed the punishments and some said that they would restore the domestic championship.

Standard, who have lost almost their entire first team, will have to play the Belgian Cup final against Ghent next month, virtually their only chance of survival. Traditionally one of Belgium's top clubs, they are fourth in the table and safe from relegation but they are likely to face serious problems next season.

Monday's results

THIRD DIVISION: Port Vale 1, Rotherham 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION: Aberdeen 1, Heart of Midlothian 1; Celtic 3, Rangers 0; Dundee 2, Motherwell 1.

LIBERTY LEAGUE: Celtic 3, Rangers 0; Dundee 2, Motherwell 1; Hearts 2, Aberdeen 1.

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SQUASH RACKETS. BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Opponent's loss of memory helps Williams to recover

By Colin McQuillan

Dean Williams, of Australia, the sixth seed, just escaped defeat by an unknown qualifier, Grantley Pinnington, in the first round of the British Open Championship, sponsored by Davies and Tate, at Bristol yesterday. Williams eventually won 4-9, 9-4, 5-9, 9-2, 10-0.

Grantley Pinnington is an Adelaide-born player, aged 20, who has been training and playing with the leading Australian players at their London headquarters in the Lambton Club. He qualified to meet Williams, one of the few players in the world to take a game from the world champion, Jahangir Khan, in a first-class tournament, by beating Caral of Amir, of Egypt. El Amir then went on to beat Williams in the qualifying rounds, to meet and beat the English veteran Ian Robinson, on Monday.

Knowing Williams still carries leg injuries, Pinnington went for his senior compatriot in an uncompromising burst of power-hitting and adventurous stroke-play that won him the first game in 12 minutes, and brought him a 1-0 lead in the second set.

"He was striking the new super ball so hard it was hitting the floor like a pudding," said Williams, who admitted that he was strangely nervous.

However, Pinnington was also nervous as was apparent, 40 minutes later, when he had an extraordinary lapse of memory believing he had lost the match with the score at 3-2. He shook hands with Williams in congratulation, then returned to court, after intervention by the referee, and fought back from 1-8 down to contest nine match points.

"I really thought the match was over when I shook hands," Pinnington said, "I was completely

shattered from winning the third, and hardly got into the fourth. Somewhere in the middle of running about I got my 2-1 lead reversed in my head in favour of Dean."

He was still lead-footed as Williams worked his way hesitantly to 8-1 and match point, but a series of uncharacteristic errors in the front court by Williams brought him back on his toes, and into the game.

"He went for everything and was getting it all," Williams said, "but I was backing off winners and playing half-hearted percentage shots."

The England No. 9, Christy Willstrop, just selected for the national squad competing in the European championships in Dublin, was less lucky. After leading 9-5, 9-4 and 8-6, the Yorkshire 21-year-old collapsed in the face of a fierce fight-back by Hesham el Attar of Egypt to lose in strangely withdrawn manner.

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Please send C.V. to Miss D. Pettit, IPPF, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW.

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Radio 2

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 5.00pm)
 Major Bulletins 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00, 5.00 and 12.00 midday. Headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30am (MF/MV).
 4.00am Colin Berry 1. 5.30 Ray Mould
 7.30 Terry Wogan : incl 8.31 Race
 Bulletin, 10.00 Jimmy Young 1. 12.15
 Steve Jones : incl 1.05 Sport, 2.00
 Gloria Huard 1. 2.02, 3.02, 4.02
 3.30 Mucca All The Way 4.00 David
 Hamilton : incl 4.02, 5.05 Sport, 6.00
 John Dunn 1. incl 6.02 Sport, 6.45
 and Classified Results (mt only) 7.00

International Soccer Special.
 Commemary on the British
 Championship at Wembley between
 England and Northern Ireland. 9.30
 Lawrence in Concert from the
 Playhouse Theatre, Manchester (v
 'ml) 8.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The
 Golden Years with Alan Keith. 10.3
 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the
 Memory 11.00 Brian Matthew pres
 Round Midnight (stereo from midn
 1.00am Charles Nove presents
 Nightride 1 3.00 Olympic Memore
 David Hemery with memories of M
 City 1968 3.30-4.00 Tommy Reil

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30am
9.30pm and then 12.00 midnight
(MF/MW).

6.00am Adrian John 7.00 Mike Redgrave
9.00 Simon Bates 11.30 Gary Davies
incl 12.30 Newsbeat 7.00 David Jensen
10.00 John Peel. * VHF Radios 1 & 2
7.30pm John Dunn (continued from p. 10)
* 8.00 Space Force First of a new series
of space adventures in which a team of
sets off on a routine flight to the moon
with Barry Foster 8.30 BBC Radio 1

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Omnitrust, 7.00
News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30
Trad 7.45 Paper on Religion 8.00
News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Peetles
8.30 The Harvey Brinkle Story 8.50
News 9.09 Review of the British Press
The Works Today 9.30 Financial News
Look Ahead 9.45 These Musical Islands
Parrack Maynard's Music Box 11.09
News 11.09 News About Britain 11.1
Service Sport Story 11.30 Meridian

Radio Newswire 12.15 Nature Notebook
The Farming World, 12.45 Sports Re-
1.00 World News, 1.09 Twenty-Four
1.30 A Striding Player, 1.45 Holst a-
2.00, 2.15 Report on Religion, 2.30
Marvelous Girl, 3.00 Radio Newswire
Outlook, 4.00 World News, 4.08 Cam-
4.15 Countdown, 5.00 World News
Twenty-Four Hours, 5.30 Assignment
Newark UK, 9.10 World Service Short
9.30 Jazz for the Asking, 10.15 World
10.30 The World Today, 11.05 Book
10.30 Financial News, 10.40 Reflections
Sports Roundup, 11.00 World News
Commentary, 11.15 The Future of the
Top Twenty, 12.00 World News, 12.09
About Britain, 12.15 Radio Newswire

Waveguide 12.40 Book Choice 12.45
Brinkley Story 1.15 Outlook 1.45 World
World News 2.09 Review of British Pre
Network U.K 2.30 Assignment 3.00
3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The
Today 3.30 These Musical Islands
Financial News 4.53 Reflections 5.04
News 5.09 Twenty-Four Hours 5.15
World Today

(All times in GMT)

SCOTTISH As London except
10.25 Welland Bu
10.50 Abigail, 11.00 Asian Insights
11.30 A Land, A Man, A God, 12.30

BORDER As London expects Target the Impossible, 10.50 Prairie Habitat, 11.05 The Poseidon Files, 11.55 Cartoon, 1.1. 1.30 Border News, 3.50-4.00 The Doctors, 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? Lookaround Wednesday, 6.25-6.30 Border News, 6.55-7.00

CENTRAL As London excepts starts 9.25 3-2-1
Contact. 9.55 Estuary. 10.10-12.00
Julius Caesar (Charlton Heston). 1.1
Jud. 1.20 Central News. 2.00 Mir
Take Longer. 2.30 We'll Meet Agai
5.15 Myths. Myths and Legends
5.45-6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 C
News. 11.50 The Ventures. 12.20
Closedown.

10.25 The Adventures of Gulliver.
Cartoon Time. 11.05 James Galway.
Master Class. 11.30-12.00 3-2-1.
Contact. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.30
Crazy World Of Sport. 3.58-4.00 L.
News. 5.15-5.45 Definition. 5.00-6.00
Good Evening Ulster. 11.50 News

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